Gov't, MILF sign ceasefire; arrest warrants lifted

Story below, Col. 4

SC denies bid by sick convict to stay home

By Philip C. Tubeza

ONE of the Abadilla 5 who underwent a kidney transplant last April may have to go back to the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa after the Supreme Court denied his motion to stay at home while he recuperates from his operation.

Lenido Lumanog, the Supreme Court

SUPREME/ A15

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Congress escape artists urged to lead inquiry

By Carlito Pablo

ISALI NA RIN ANG MGA PUGANTE NG MUNTI

IF it takes a thief to catch a thief, "escape artists" ought to be able to help stem the rash of jailbreaks.

Rep. Abraham Mitra (LDP, Palawan) yesterday suggested

CONGRESS/ A16

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph   Saturday, July 19, 2003 ★★ 60 pages / 7 sections / vol. 18 / no. 221   P15   website: www.inq7.net

Gringo advising officers

Honasan: I don't mind being linked to griping AFP group

By Fe Zamora, Christine Avendaño and Cynthia Balana

THE GROUP of griping captains from the Army and Marines has been getting advice from Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, a source told the INQUIRER yesterday.

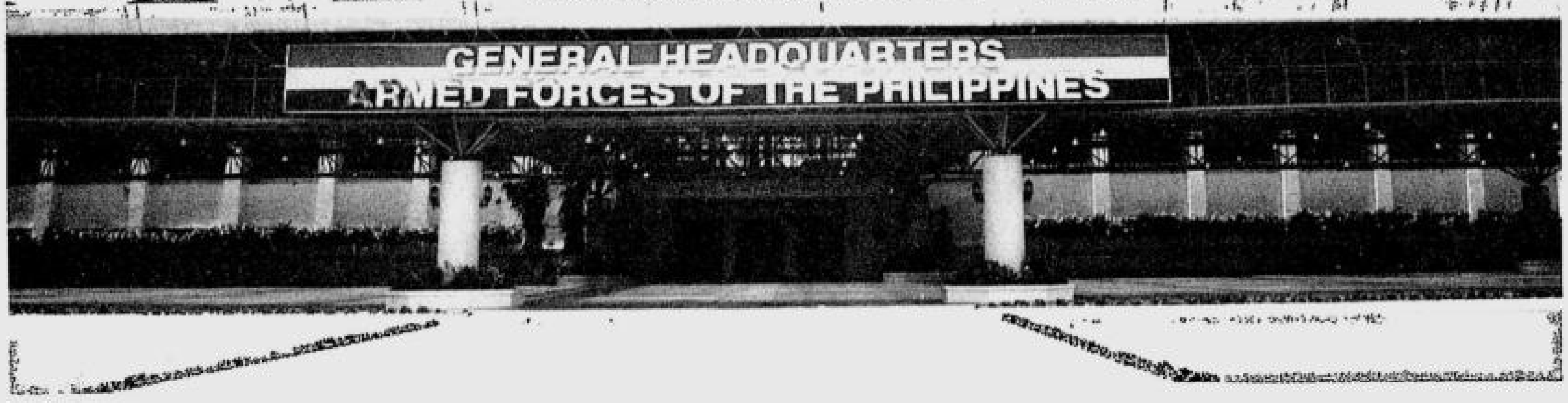
Honasan's role as "adviser" to the group of restive young officers was discussed by President Macapagal-Arroyo last Saturday with the senior military officers who were summoned to Malacañang to shed light on their bull sessions with the captains, mostly from Classes 1994 and 1995 of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA).

But Honasan, who's now in the US, told the Inquirer in a telephone interview that he "doesn't mind" being identified as adviser to the young officers.

"We were informed Honasan wanted to champion the cause of the group," said a Macapagal official who was present at the Palace meeting.

"They (officers) are mouthing Honasan's National Recovery Program (NRP)," said the INQUIRER source who

GRINGO/ A15



GMA orders AFP chief to establish grievance mechanism

By TJ Burgonio

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered Armed Forces Chief of Staff Narciso Abaya to institutionalize a "grievance mechanism" to address the young officers' complaints even as she warned the latter to avoid sowing dissension in the military organization.

She said she wants to be informed about the program.

"We must strengthen a culture of disciplined transparency in the Armed Forces. This is the most effective way we can insulate the uniform from politics, avoid factionalism and promote professionalism," the President said.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes conceded that the soldiers had legitimate concerns but that the defense leadership was addressing these "vigorously."

He cited numerous agreements that the department had concluded with private housing developers to construct military quarters and the recent passage of laws to increase soldiers' pay.

On July, 2002, President Macapagal signed a law known as an``Act Promotin the Welfare of the Armed Forces of the Philippines by increasing the Rate of Base Pay and Other Purposes to be implemented in three phases.

The first salary adjustment started last October at a uniform rate of 20 percent of the total increase in their base pay. The second was given last January with 30 percent increase, and the third and final adjustment will be given on January, 2004 with a 50 percent increase in total base pay.

Reyes said in a statement that once the adjustments have been completed, the soldiers' salary will be at par with the members of the Philippine National Police.

Reyes also denied that he was "micromanaging" the military, which had been one of the complaints of the young officers. **(Related story on Page A1).**

GMA/ A15

Ebdane still PNP head but quit calls mount

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

IGNORING loud calls for the sacking of Philippine National Police chief Hermogenes Ebdane, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday put him personally in charge of the search for fugitive Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi.

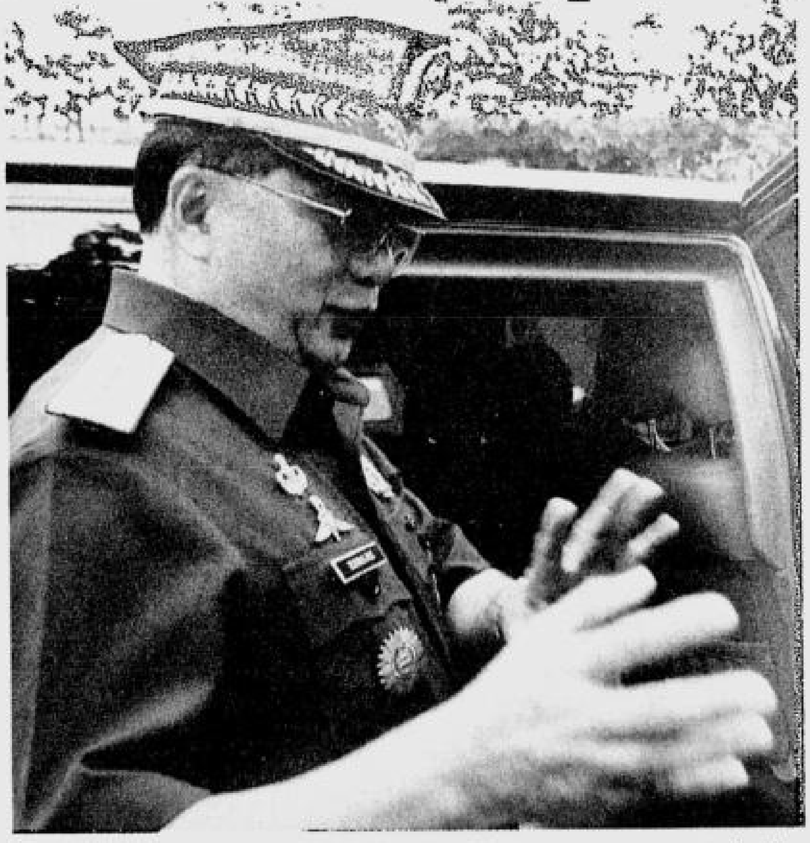
"The PNP chief will lead a task force exclusively for Al-Ghozi's manhunt. We will not stop until the terrorist leader is accounted for," the President announced in a speech at the Mindanao Island Conference held at the Century Park Hotel in Manila.

Earlier in the day, Malacañang officials alerted reporters to a "big announcement" that the President was going to make about Ebdane at 6 p.m. This led to speculation that Ms Macapagal was going to fire the PNP chief, under whose watch Al-Ghozi and several other prominent detainees escaped.

On TV reports that Ebdane submitted his resignation to Malacañang yesterday but that it was rejected, Ms Macapagal's spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said: "We cannot confirm that."

But the clamor for Ebdane's head continued, with the Makati Business Club saying that Al-Ghozi's "effortless escape" had caused "inestimable embarrassment to the country and concern and friction

EBDANE/ A16



PNP CHIEF EBDANE: Coming or going? Rumors of his ouster were exaggerated as the President named him to a task force dedicated to hunt down the fugitives. VAL HANDUMON

Sacked jail guard wants to tell all but . . .

By Christian V. Esguerra

POLICE intelligence officials might have known about the defective jail gate at Camp Crame as early as April but ignored it, according to a jail guard sacked for the recent escape of Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi.

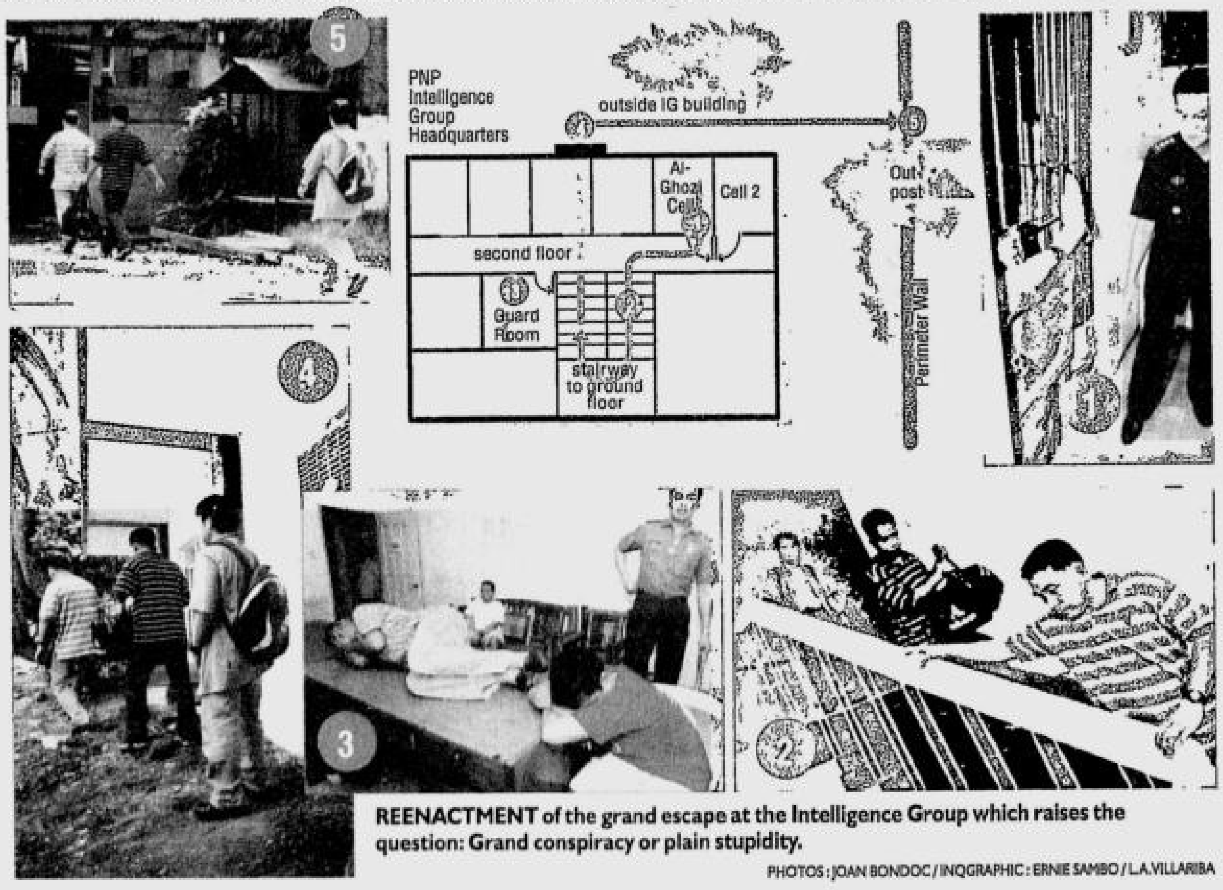
The oversight may have been part of a "grand conspiracy" to free Al-Ghozi and the two suspected Abu Sayyaf members, PO1 Ronald Palmares yesterday told the INQUIRER. "It's hard to believe that (officials) discovered the defect only after the escape," he said.

An angry Palmares, 23, abandoned restraint and attempted to tell his story to reporters during yesterday's reenactment of the escape at the Intelligence Group's old building.

But barely had he uttered a word than Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil told him that whatever he said "could be used against" him.

SACKED/ A16

ANOTHER VERSION OF HOW AL-GHOZI ESCAPED



REENACTMENT of the grand escape at the Intelligence Group which raises the question: Grand conspiracy or plain stupidity.

PHOTOS: JOAN BONDOC / INQGRAPHIC: ERNIE SAMBO / L.A. VILLARIBA

Gov't, MILF sign truce pact effective today

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday signed a ceasefire agreement with the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front and agreed to drop arrest warrants against its top leaders, paving the way for formal peace talks to begin, possibly as early as next week in Kuala Lumpur.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said the arrest warrants against MILF chief Salamat Hashim and other rebel leaders have been suspended by the courts.

The ceasefire is to take effect today, according to the terms of an agreement signed by Eduardo Ermita, the presidential adviser on the peace process and chair of the government negotiating panel, and Ibrahim Murad for the MILF.

"Peace is at hand. Peace is within grasp. We shall forge the political will to preserve it for all generations of Filipinos," President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday, as she directed the Armed Forces to stop military offensives against the rebels now that key obstacles to the resumption of negotiations had been cleared.

"I am directing the Armed Forces to downgrade our operational status from punitive operations to active defense. This is in line with the policy of calibrated reciprocity that will continue to guide our actions in the peace process," the President said in a statement.

Ten MILF leaders were granted "safe conduct and free passage within the territory of the . . . Philippines" for 90 days, starting today, to allow them to travel to Malaysia where the talks are to be held possibly in the next few days as previously indicated by government officials.

They are: Salamat, Murad, Aleem Aziz Mimbantas, Ghadzali Jaafar, Eid Kabalu, Mohaqher Iqbal, Lanang Ali, Omar Pasigan, Nurudin Ibrahim and Toks Ibrahim.

Ermita directed all authorities to implement the safe conduct and free passage orders.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina also issued a circular suspending the bounties offered for the arrest of the rebel leaders.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu wel-

GOV'T/ A4

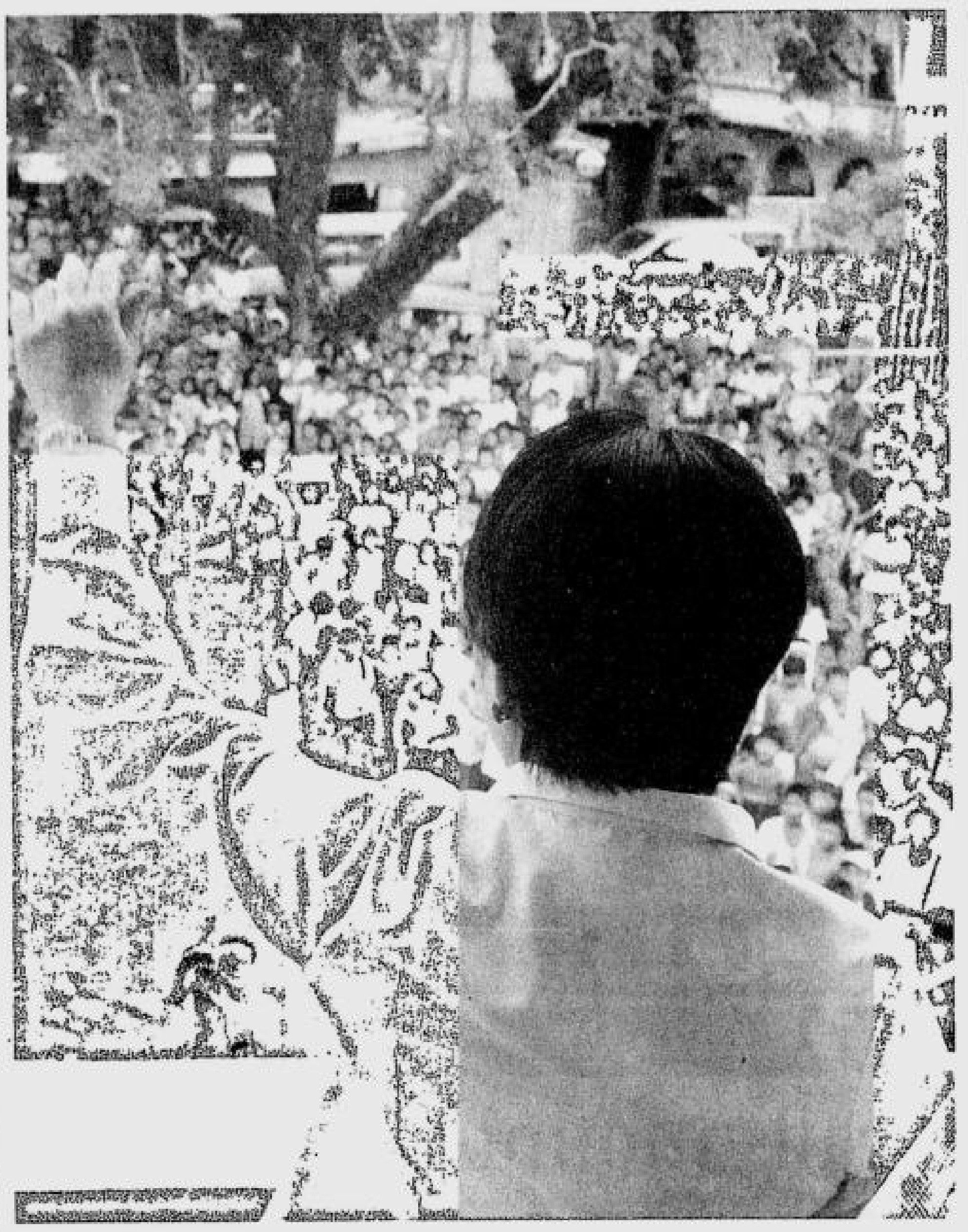
WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Central and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over Palawan and Mindoro. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY: ARMIN ADINA, PDI RESEARCH/07/19/03 SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with rains
Baguio	Partly cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with rains
Tuguegarao	Partly cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with rains
Laoag	Partly cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with rains
Clark Zone	Partly cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with rains
Calapan	Widespread rains	Davao	Cloudy with rains

Gov't set to get $682M soon



NON-CANDIDATE EDWIN BACASMAS

President Macapagal-Arroyo waves to the crowd from the terrace of the municipal hall of Balangkayan, Eastern Samar, during an unscheduled visit in the area. She also visited schools and police stations in several other towns, including Giporlos, Balangiga and Llorente. So who says she's not campaigning?

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE GOVERNMENT expects to lay its hands on the $682 million in alleged Marcos ill-gotten wealth being held in escrow in the Philippine National Bank "very, very soon."

"Sooner than you think," said Commissioner Ruben Carranza of the Presidential Commission on Good Government in a news conference yesterday.

Carranza said the PCGG was "very optimistic" the money would be turned over by Swiss authorities to the Philippines after the Supreme Court had ordered the money forfeited to the government.

The Swiss Federal Supreme Court in 1997 and 1998 transferred the money that was found in Swiss bank accounts to an escrow account in the PNB.

At the time, the amount totaled over $300 million. Over time, interest earned bloated the funds to $682 million.

The Swiss court had imposed two conditions, however, before the money could be turned over to the Philippine government. One, the Philippine Supreme Court had to decide on the ownership of the funds and, two, a portion of the money was to be allocated to the victims of human rights abuses during martial law to indemnify them for their troubles.

"We're very optimistic. After our embassy coordinated with the Swiss authorities, we now have more than enough reason to believe the money will be removed from escrow once and for all," Carranza said.

"We are only waiting for the Supreme Court decision to become final and executory," he added.

While Ambassador to Switzerland Rora Navarro-Tolentino got in touch with Swiss authorities, Carranza met with Swiss Ambassador to Manila Lise Favre on Wednesday to discuss the SC ruling.

Carranza said the Philippine government had fulfilled the two "conditions" set by the Swiss court, although he refrained from calling them "conditions," because "you can't impose a condition on a sovereign (nation)."

"What is important." he said, "is we have taken steps . . . to compensate the human rights victims, not the actual compensation."

Imee won't block law to compensate human rights victims

By Cynthia D. Balana

REP. IMEE Marcos admitted yesterday she was against a proposed law that would compensate the victims of human rights abuses during the regime of her late father Ferdinand Marcos, but she denied actively blocking passage of the measure.

"*Naku naman.* I think *sobra naman iyang mga* allegations *na yan ah*(Gee, I think those allegations were over the top.)," Marcos said in a radio interview.

"We'd been talking about the compensation bill, and I said I was against it but I will never block it. *Mismong si* (Even) Representative Etta Rosales *alam yan*(knows that)," she said.

Marcos said she was taken aback by the allegation of Commissioner Ruben Carranza of the Presidential Commission on Good Government that she was blocking passage of the measure.

Carranza had called on her to stop blocking the bill by appealing to her "sense of shame."

The money to indemnify the 9,539 victims of human rights abuses during the martial law regime instituted by her father was to come from the $682 million in an escrow account the Supreme Court had ordered forfeited to the government.

The money was alleged to have been part of the wealth purportedly looted by the Marcoses from the Philippines that was found in Swiss bank accounts.

Reached by the INQUIRER for comment, Rosales, chair of the House committee on civil, political and human rights, confirmed Marcos' statement.

"She (Marcos) is not aggressively blocking it (the bill) and there's no evidence that she's lobbying against it," Rosales said.

Asked why she appeared to be "defending" Marcos, Rosales replied, "I'm the chairman of the committee and I'm just trying to be fair to everyone."

According to Rosales, Marcos assured her she would not block the passage of the bill but would register her negative vote.

Party-list Rep. Kim Bernardo-Lokin of the Citizens Battle Against Corruption, a member of the committee, said there has been no evident pressure from Marcos to block the bill, although some congressmen, particularly from the so-called Ilocano bloc, had wanted the coverage of the bill expanded.

Lokin said there was nothing wrong with expanding the coverage of the bill to include victims of human rights abuses under other administrations, not necessarily only martial law, as long as the victims under martial law were indemnified.

Marcos said those who wanted to expand the coverage of the bill did not only come from the Ilocano bloc.

"There were questions about its constitutionality. Why are victims under the Marcos regime being favored over victims under other administrations? Why is the government being used as a collection agency for private individuals? The bill's coverage needs to be expanded so all victims can take advantage of it," Marcos said.

Sources in the committee revealed that during the last deliberations on the bill, Rep. Crispin Beltran, also of Bayan Muna, walked out of the room, saying he was withdrawing his authorship of the bill.

The sources said Beltran was disappointed that Rosales appeared to be siding with those who wanted to expand the bill's coverage "by making it generic," so that it will not speak of the rights victims under the Marcos regime alone.

Militants want Danding out of SMC board

By Norman Bordadora

MILITANT groups, acting in behalf of small coconut farmers, yesterday picketed San Miguel Corp. to ask its board to oust Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco from the chairmanship of the food and beverage giant.

Members of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) and the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) both called for stripping Cojuangco, who is also SMC chief executive officer, of decision-making powers in the corporation.

"The landmark Sandiganbayan ruling will remain a mere scrap of paper if Cojuangco's control over the multi-billion-peso coconut levy fund will not be immediately removed," said KMP secretary general Danilo Ramos.

"Cojuangco's ouster from SMC is a political necessity for the recovery of the coco levy fund and its return to small coconut farmers. It's been a week since the Sandiganbayan ruling was rendered and no concrete action has yet been taken by the Macapagal administration against Cojuangco to recover the funds," he said.

The Sandiganbayan anti-graft court had ruled the coco levy fund, collected from small coconut farmers since the 1980's, belonged to the farmers and not to Cojuangco, who had allegedly used the fund to put up the United Coconut Planters Bank and buy into SMC.

The KMP said it plans to file along with allied coconut farmers' groups a "test case" for plunder next week against Cojuangco, following the Sandiganbayan ruling forfeiting Cojuangco's shares in UCPB in favor of the farmers.

"As the real owners of SMC, (the coconut farmers) demand the ouster of Mr. Cojuangco and his paid hacks in the corporation. We are sending this urgent notice to the board, and, without further delay, we expect the board to perform its duty in accordance with the coconut farmers interests," said Pamalakaya national chair Fernando Hicap.

In ordering on Friday last week that Cojuangco's controlling stake in UCPB be forfeited in favor of the farmers, the Sandiganbayan declared that Cojuangco and his associates had illegally acquired 72 percent of UCPB, using the coco levy funds.

But PCGG says he'll stay till February

DESPITE a recent court ruling in its favor, the government's hands are tied in letting Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. keep control of San Miguel Corp. for the next seven months.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government has a two-year "interim agreement" with Cojuangco that in effect lets him stay as SMC chair until Feb. 21, 2004.

The deal can end earlier if the courts "finally resolves" the dispute over the coco levy funds.

The government and Cojuangco entered into the agreement while waiting for the Sandiganbayan's ruling on the ownership of the funds.

The two parties specifically want a ruling on the United Coconut Planters Bank (Civil Case 33-A), on the Coconut Industry Investment Fund oil mills (33-B) and the 47 percent bloc of SMC shares (33-F).

The Sandiganbayan on Friday ruled that Cojuangco et al illegally acquired UCPB with coco levy funds, and forfeited their 72.2 percent shares to the government.

The UCPB administers the 27 percent bloc of SMC shares claimed by the CIIF.

PCGG officials are hoping for a final ruling on the coco levy funds before Feb. 21 to do away with the interim deal.

US air demands unfair, says DFA

By Gerald G. Lacuarta and Abigail Ho

NEGOTIATIONS for the air transport agreement between the Philippines and US bogged down because the US demands were onerous and unfair, according to an official of the Department Foreign Affairs.

The US air panel, on the other hand, will not go back to the negotiating table until a way to bend the provisions of the Constitution is found, according to a US source.

Foreign Undersecretary Franklin Ebdalin, vice chair of the Philippine panel, said the talks had to be terminated because "there was no way to find a common ground."

Ebdalin described the US position as "onerous for the Philippine side."

"We were just asking for an extension, but they were asking many things in return which are not fair to the Philippine side," Edbalin said.

The open-skies policy is expected to take effect on Oct. 1, the end of the latest extension period Manila was allowed under the 1982 RP-US Air Transport Agreement.

Under an open skies regime, there shall be full deregulation of the number of flights US airlines can make to the country. The policy should have taken effect as early as 1982 but it had been postponed three times in 1987, 1993, and 1998 due to the strong lobby of local airlines.

The US panel was demanding "seventh freedom" rights for American cargo carriers, which would allow US cargo carriers to fly between two points in the Philippines.

But the "seventh freedom," Ebdalin said, is not allowed under the Constitution, which requires public utilities operating in the country, including airlines, to be owned at least 60 percent by Filipinos.

Ebdalin said the Philippine panel was open to another round of talks although no date had been set.

"The talks can resume anytime if there is an indication that an agreement can be reached," he said, although informal channels can be used to explore the possibility of forging an agreement.

But US sources said the US panel would not return to the negotiations unless constitutional issue is resolved.

Ebdalin said the deadlock in the negotiations would not affect RP-US relations which had been strengthened by President Macapagal-Arroyo's staunch support to the US' global war against terrorism.

"RP-US relations cover a wide range of areas. In aviation relations, it takes a long time for an agreement to be finally reached," he said.

Erap won't defend himself; lawyer says he's ready for conviction

By Norman Bordadora

THE LAWYER of jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada yesterday said his client was standing pat on his decision not to present evidence in his defense and was "willing and ready" to be convicted of corruption charges.

Estrada would have been called yesterday to declare so under oath and accept the consequences of his decision except that Justice Minita Chico-Nazario, the presiding justice of the Sandiganbayan's 5th Division, rejected the request of the prosecution.

Nazario said there was no reason to bind the ousted leader to his decision not to present evidence.

"He can always change his mind. That is one of the rights of the accused," she said.

Defense lawyer Alan Paguia said he expects the Sandiganbayan to convict Estrada.

"The lines have been drawn. They are willing to convict despite the glaring unconstitutionality of the cases filed against him," Paguia told reporters.

The court yesterday also heard a defense motion for the 5th Division justices to inhibit themselves from the Estrada case.

Paguia explained that since Estrada's sole defense lay in his motion to dismiss the plunder case because the Sandiganbayan had no jurisdiction over him as he was still the president of the country, then the anti-graft court had no business hearing the charges against him.

"So be it. Let history run its course. The President [Estrada] is ready for whatever the consequences," Paguia told reporters.

He said the alleged fact that Estrada was unconstitutionally stripped of his presidential authority in January 2001 "would remain five years from now, even 10, 20 or 30 years (hence)."

"Of course, those in power will defend the Supreme Court (decision that it was a constitutional turnover). That is human nature. But history calls for more than human nature," Paguia said.

He said he was not using alleged dilatory tactics as the court only has to decide on Estrada's motion to dismiss and the defense would rest.

But special prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio said the prosecution cannot just submit the case for resolution even if Estrada's defense has rested its case.

"There are other legal considerations such as the defense of former San Juan mayor Jinggoy Estrada and lawyer Edward Serapio," Villa-Ignacio said.

Estrada's motion to dismiss was anchored on the argument that the Supreme Court justices had prejudged his motion questioning the legitimacy of President Macapagal-Arroyo's assumption to power. He said the SC justices could not possibly rule in his favor as they were active participants in the second Edsa people power uprising that ousted him.

Paguia said the members of the 5th Division had also prejudged his client.

"(For one), they refer to him as former President Estrada when we are still claiming that he is still the duly elected President," he said.

Palace says Cabinet bench is 'deep'

MALACAÑANG is unfazed by the prospect of having a decimated Cabinet once the Dec. 15 deadline on the filing of candidacies for the 2004 elections becomes due.

"We have a deep bench," said Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye Thursday on questions of where Malacañang would get the new talent to fill up the vacant Cabinet posts in the final 6 months of the Macapagal administration.

Bunye said that under the rules, Cabinet officials should vacate their post as soon as they file their certificate of candidacy.

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Gov't, MILF sign truce; arrest warrants lifted

From page A1

comed the truce and the lifting of the arrest warrants, saying "peace can be had even in a few days if both sides are sincere."

Salamat's participation

But he said Salamat's participation in the talks, a condition set by the government, would be decided at a later time.

"The MILF is still waiting if Malaysia would request his presence during the peace talks," he said.

Kabalu said the rebels were waiting for official notice from Malaysia on when the talks would start.

Ms Macapagal said she was expecting a Malaysian ceasefire monitoring team to arrive soon so that the peace talks could begin, and would also seek help from the members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

"I call on the panels to immediately enter into formal talks towards a final peace agreement," the President said.

She said the breakthrough was achieved through "the relentless back-channeling efforts undertaken by government representatives over several months in the Philippines and abroad."

"Step by step, we are overcoming the obstacles to the resumption of peace talks under conditions of stability on the ground," the President said.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople said earlier that talks could reopen in Malaysia next week.

Thanks to Mahathir

The President thanked Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad for his "sincere and abiding support for our efforts."

She also expressed her appreciation for the role of United States President George W. Bush "for committing assistance to the rehabilitation of conflict-related areas, which contributes greatly to the climate for peace to prosper."

Ople said he expects the US, through the Washington-based Institute for Peace, to support Malaysia in facilitating the talks.

He said the US Congress has allocated $30 million for financial and diplomatic support to the peace process.

The announcement was made soon after the President accepted an offer from the MILF to help in the hunt for convicted Indonesian bomber Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi.

The President said MILF help, apart from restricting Al-Ghozi's "roaming ground," would boost the prospect of the peace talks resuming.

The way for resumed talks was opened last month when MILF chief Salamat formally denounced terrorism, a top government demand.

Ms Macapagal had accused the MILF of ties with the Southeast Asia-based terrorist group, Jemaah Islamiyah, said to be linked to the al-Qaida international terrorist network of Osama bin Laden.

But the MILF has denied having links to Jemaah Islamiyah or being involved in the string of bombings in Mindanao in recent months.

Aware that past talks had failed, the President sounded an optimistic tone with the new ceasefire.

"I ask our people to give peace a chance, even as we secure our absolute sovereignty and the enforcement of the law over all areas and at all times. As we address the roots of rebellion and secession, I am confident that we shall also effectively isolate and marginalize the dwindling terrorist cells in Mindanao and across our seas in the region," she said.

Kabalu said the lifting of the arrest warrants had removed one of the biggest stumbling blocks to the resumption of the talks.

"We were expecting it because we are really innocent. We know that justice will finally take its course. We are also confident that the reinvestigation would show that we do not have anything to do with the bombings. The MILF is not a terrorist group but a legitimate revolutionary organization," he said.

The MILF had declared a three-week unilateral ceasefire in early June. Even after the period lapsed, the rebels has refrained from actively attacking troops in hopes that the government would reciprocate.

But the government has been wary of the rebel group's ceasefire declaration, saying it might serve as a window for fresh attacks against the military.

An attempt to hold Malaysian-brokered peace talks in May was called off after suspected members of the MILF carried out attacks in two remote towns in Zamboanga del Norte and Lanao del Norte provinces that left over 50 people dead.

Ten MILF leaders were charged in connection with bomb attacks that killed 38 people at an airport and a ferry terminal in Davao City in March and April this year. *With a report from Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, July 19, 2003
15th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Ex 12:37-42
Gospel: Mt 12:14-21

The Pharisees went out and made plans to get rid of him. As Jesus was aware of the plot, he went away from that place. Many people followed him and he cured all who were sick. Then he gave them strict orders not to make him known.

In this way Isaiah's prophecy was fulfilled:

Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, and with whom I am pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him and he will announce my judgment to the nations.

He will not argue or shout, nor will his voice be heard in the streets. The bruised reed he will not crush, nor snuff out the smoldering wick. He will persist until justice is made victorious and in him all the nations will put their hope.

Commentary

Jesus was a courageous man. He dealt with persons whom the religious Jews shunned, risking exclusion by his own people. The violent forces of nature and savage demoniacs did not frighten him. The learning and social standing of the scribes and Pharisees did not deter him from engaging them in debate. But when opposition against him had come to a head and plans were being laid to kill him, he draws back from the heat. Imagine the disappointment of onlookers, possibly of his own disciples, eager to see some real "action." Imagine the ridicule heaped upon him by his detractors. Jesus braved all that. Jesus displayed as much courage in silence and retreat as he did in preaching and action. There is so much more courage in silent humility than in blustering bravado.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Revised Rule on Summary Procedure—The Revised Rule on Summary Procedure was promulgated specifically to achieve an expeditious and inexpensive determination of cases. In allowing the submission of the accused's counter-affidavits after 130 days from notice, respondent judge violated the Rule. He should have observed that Section 12(b) of the Rule provides that the court shall issue an order "which shall require the accused to submit his counter-affidavit and the affidavits of his witnesses" x x x "not later than ten (10) days from receipt of said order." Section 19(e) of the same Rule also provides that a motion for extension to file affidavits is prohibited. Clearly, these provisions are mandatory. When the law or rule is clear, there is no room for interpretation and judges have no option but to obey. Thus, the respondent judge is administratively liable for violation of the Supreme Court Rules, specifically the Revised Rule on Summary Procedure. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Sandoval-Gutierrez, Third Division, Carriaga v. Anasario, A. M. No. MTJ-02-1403, Feb. 3]

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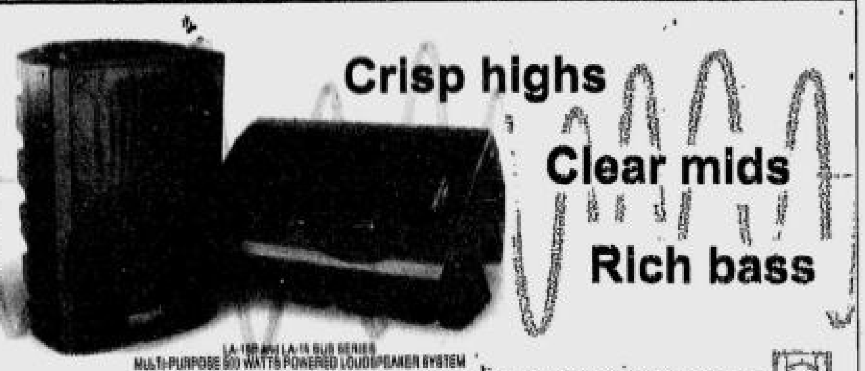

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Pinoy priest in sex raps free on bail; flock offers prayers

By Recah Trinidad

FOOTHILL Ranch, California—The Philippine-born priest who was arrested on allegation of sexually molesting a 15-year-old girl has posted bail and is now with family members, the Orange Country Register reported yesterday.

Parishioners at the Our Lady of Guadalupe-Delhi reacted with shock and disbelief, the Register said, as the District Attorney's Office proceeded to review the case against the Rev. Gerardo Jarencio Tanilong, 71, before scheduling an arraignment.

As parishioners awaited the outcome of the case, some of them came out in support of "Padre Gerardito" who was pictured as a loving, compassionate man.

Tanilong turned himself to authorities Monday and was booked on suspicion of lewd conduct after the parents of the unidentified teen, accompanied by officials of the Diocese of Orange, told the Anaheim Police Department that the priest had molested their daughter.

Tanilong was arrested on the same day.

He posted $50,000 bail on Tuesday.

Gloria Tuche, 46, of Orange, said she could not believe that Tanilong, who came from a family of priests and helped build a church in his hometown in the Philippines, would molest anyone.

More than 200 parishioners at the Our Lady of Guadalupe-Delhi in Santa. Ana, where Tanilong has served since 1999, packed a Mass on Tuesday to offer prayers for "someone they said is incapable of any wrongdoing," the Register reported.

As traced by the Register, Tanilong, on one occasion, got out of bed at 2 a.m. to go to the home of a family he hardly knew to console them after they just lost a child.

Another time, The Register added, he drove more than 100 miles through pounding rain to give the last rites for a man he met only once.

"He never thinks of himself, always others," the Register quoted parishioner Patricia Martinez as saying.

But an office worker from the scenic, tree-lined Foothill Ranch area, calling the incident a shame, told the INQUIRER the case could not have stemmed out of nothing.

However, Mirna Mendoza claimed Tanilong "is the last person anyone would be suspected of wrongdoing" and said the case must have been an offshoot of a misunderstanding.

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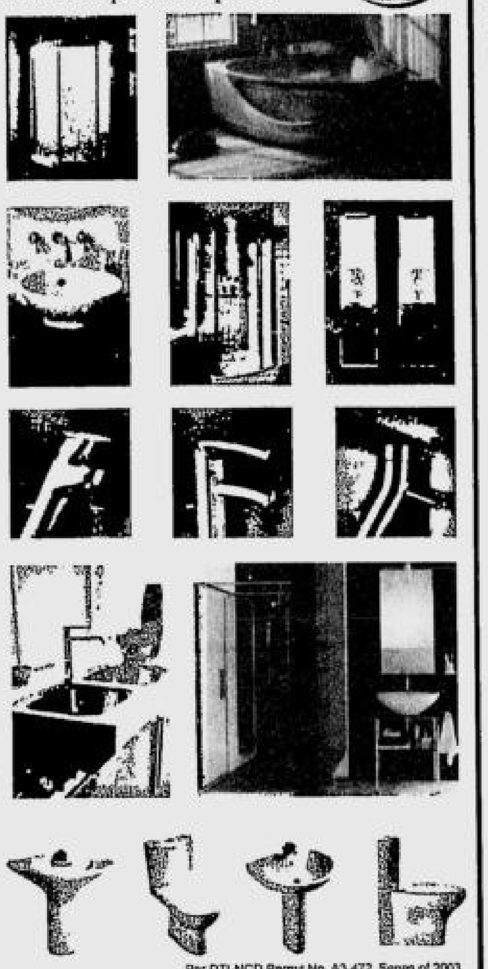

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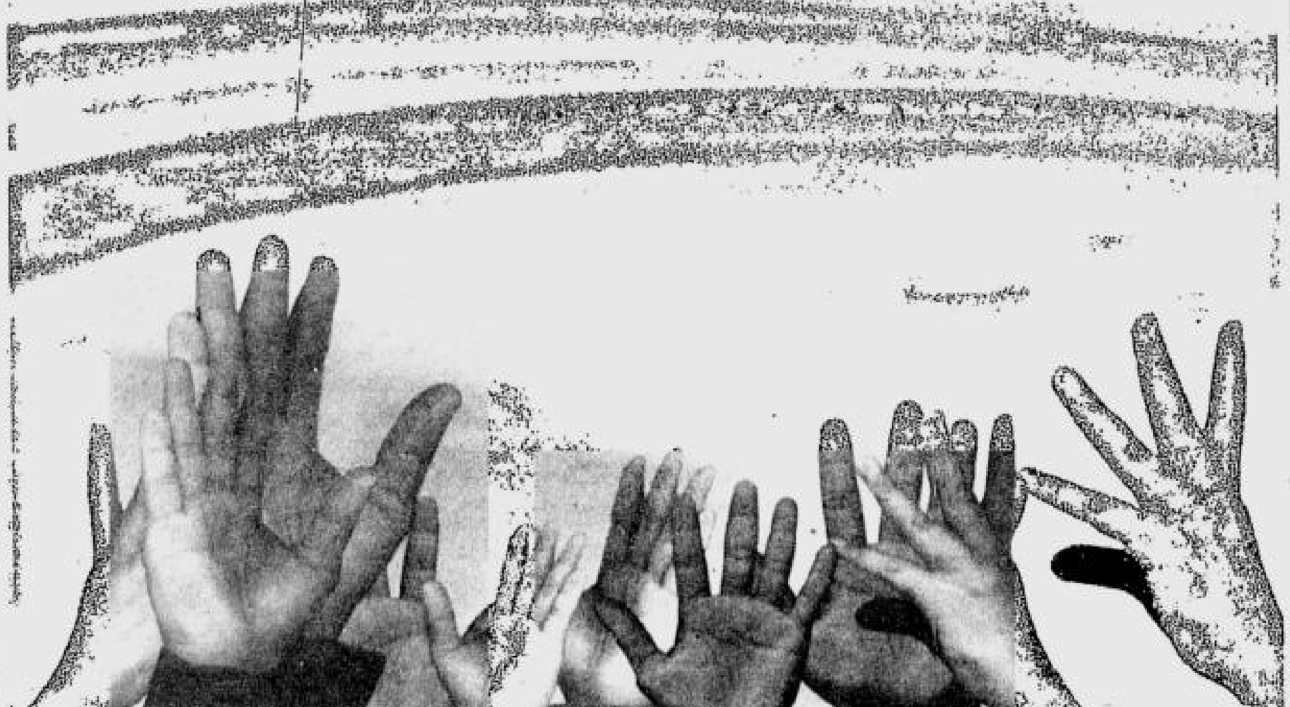

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July 27 - August 3, 2003

Schedule of Activities

A. Prelude to Diabetes Awareness Week: July 20, 2003
NE Pacific Mall, Cabanatuan City

B. Kick-Off Activities: July 27, 2003
Glorietta Activity Area, Makati City
10:00 am Glorietta Activity Area
10:30 am Holy Mass
11:30 am Program / Awarding of Outstanding Patients
"Best Interpretation of DAW theme song Contest"
Free Blood Glucose Testing, Wet Sampling
/ Launching of Red "D" ribbon

C. Culminating Activities: August 3, 2003
Festival Supermall, Filinvest, Alabang
10:00 am Holy Mass
11:00 am Program / Singing Contest:
"Best Interpretation of DAW theme Song,"
Awarding of Outstanding Patients / Free Blood Glucose
Testing, Wet Sampling / Launching of Red "D" ribbon

D. Week-long Activities
Nutrition Classes for Mothers and Care Givers
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Lorenzo bats for more funds for agri research

By Norman Bordadora

THE PHILIPPINES must spend more for farming and fisheries research, a vital component of the country's drive toward agricultural modernization.

Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo yesterday said the measly budget for government research in farming and fisheries has also resulted in negligible advances in agricultural productivity.

Lorenzo stressed that agricultural research and development "should be given the utmost attention it has long deserved."

He said the Bureau of Agricultural Research, the agency in charge of research and development, has not received adequate financial support from the government due to the perennial national budget deficit.

"[The BAR's] current budget had been pushed to the minimum, just enough to maintain and operate the current programs and projects," Lorenzo said.

"The agriculture-attached agencies have been left to seek their own funding," he added.

Only joint research conducted by Philippine and foreign agencies was providing new agricultural know-how and technology to local farmers, Lorenzo said.

"With these joint studies, the country may be on the right path to a better comparative position agriculturally with its neighbors," he said.

Research teams from universities and scientific agencies in the Philippines and the United States have agreed on joint undertakings to improve local agricultural production, according to Lorenzo.

One such partnership will be supported with grants by the RP-US Agricultural Research and Development Endowment Fund, Lorenzo said.

He said the money will come from roughly 10 percent of the sale proceeds of commodities covered by United States Public Law 480.

Under USPL 480 in 2001, Lorenzo said, the amount traded by the Philippines with the US in rice and corn alone reached P1.53 billion.

Grief seminar today

A PASSING through Grief seminar is being held today and tomorrow at the Alberione Oasis in Antipolo City.

Four trained counselors who all hold diplomas in family ministry and counseling are assisting participants in unshackling the chains that keep their grief trapped within them, preventing them from moving forward.

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NPA rebs stage attacks in South

COMMUNIST guerrillas raided a palm oil plantation and in a separate attack wounded three government soldiers in Mindanao, military officials said yesterday.

The two incidents were the latest in a series of assaults by the New People's Army nationwide.

About 70 rebels barged into the Filipina Palm Oil Plantation in Agusan del Sur province Thursday and torched four tractors before fleeing on four stolen motorcycles, said military spokesperson Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero.

The guerrillas attacked the plantation after its owners refused to pay "revolutionary taxes," Lucero said.

In Compostela Valley province, guerrillas attacked a group of troops and wounded three soldiers. The soldiers were hunting communist guerrillas who killed 13 soldiers and wounded three others in fighting last month, Lucero said. *AP*

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EDITORIALS

Tragedy

THE HOSPITALS have their side on the case of the quadruplets born to Jocelyn and Vladimir Calisaan this week who are now all dead.

The first hospital the Calisaans went to, the Manila Central University Hospital, says it never demanded a deposit from them simply because it never admitted them. And it never admitted them because it did not have incubators for their babies. All of its incubators were taken. And it even helped the Calisaans find another hospital that had the needed facilities.

Fabella, the hospital the Calisaans ended up in, says Jocelyn's babies really had little hope of living when they were brought there. They were "very weak," says Dr. Ruben Flores, its director. Their temperatures were way below normal and they were underweight. One weighed only 500 grams, two weighed only 1,000 grams each, while Jhobelle who outlived them for a few days had underdeveloped lungs.

The reason for this is that Jocelyn delivered the babies only six months into her pregnancy. Any number of things could have caused the premature births, the doctors say. The crowded space inside her uterus, lack of oxygen and nutrients inside her womb, infections and stress—all or any of these could have pushed the babies out.

Quadruplets, though uncommon, are not rare. In these cases, say the doctors, the mortality rate is high, particularly when they are born prematurely. So even if the babies had been brought straight to Fabella, their chances of surviving were slim.

The Calisaans have their side too. And their side is that they were treated shabbily because they are poor. Jocelyn puts her case directly: If they weren't poor, their babies would still be alive now.

This is so, she says, because the hospitals were insensitive to their plight. They were admitted to MCU, she says, only to be told that they had to transfer because the hospital's incubators were being used by other patients. Also, the hospital did not freely offer to help them transfer to another hospital: they had to badger the staff before they did it. And not before the hospital charged them P16,000 in fees, including the ambulance to get to Fabella. That took all of six hours, and by then the babies were in bad shaped.

If they had put the babies in incubators earlier, they say, the babies would have lived. It wasn't the hand of God that struck down the kids, they say, it was the hand of man. Specifically, MCU's hospital staff.

Hope

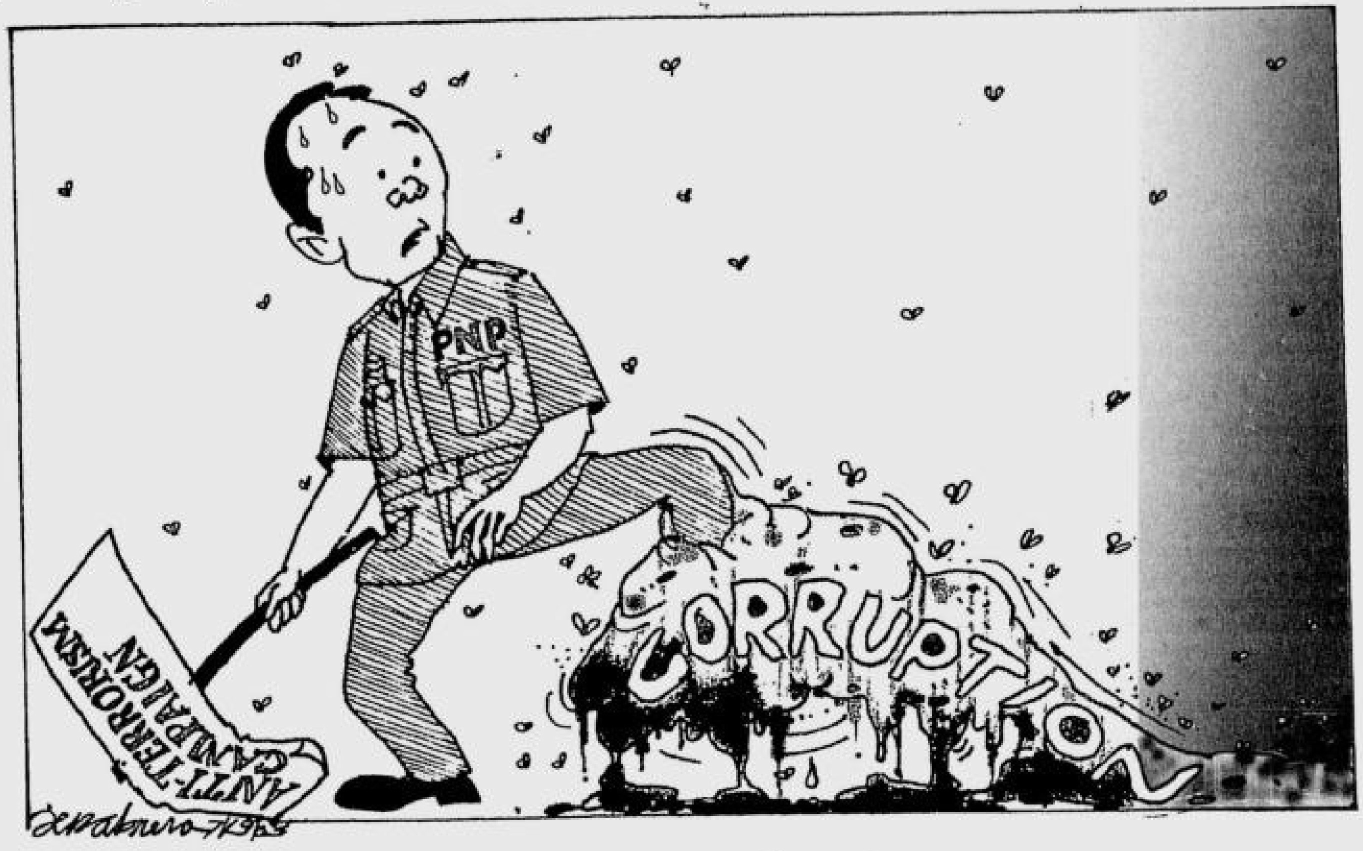
THE CALISAANS' bitterness is understandable. But patients' expectations also always tend to be quite exaggerated. It is part of human nature to want to lash out at others when something goes wrong, and doctors and hospitals make for a convenient scapegoat. That was one of the dangers of the medical malpractice bill crafted last year, the one criminalizing medical malpractice. There would have been no end to suits against doctors, including those from people who believe, even against a preponderance of evidence, that they would have lived if they hadn't gotten a raw deal.

From the other end, the hospitals may be faulted as well for an attitude that does not speak well of the calling they represent. Whether the Calisaans were admitted to MCU or not is verifiable, and we urge that it be verified. But whether so or not, the attitude of apathy or lack of initiative on the part of the hospital staff is deplorable. We believe the Calisaans when they say they had to badger MCU to help them find another hospital to go to and they had to pay through their teeth for the transfer. The amount was by no means small to them: Vladimir earns a paltry sum as a driver for a car parts company.

We believe so because until Vladimir poured out his heart to reporters in a moment of bitterness, and until the media put out the story and stoked the public to wrath, the hospitals were intractable. Their subsequent reasonability and willingness to explain appear to be the product of pressure, too.

The fact that the quadruplets were born prematurely, that they were grossly underweight and were running a low temperature is not a reason to give up after being given a ready-made excuse for failure. It is a reason to fight on. It is a reason to defy the odds. That is what doctors swear their oath for. It's called the Hippocratic Oath. With it doctors swear to defend all life as best they can.

The other kind is known as the hypocritical one.



Politicians on the Court

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

CRITICISM of Dante O. Tinga's appointment to the Supreme Court is based on shaky ground at best. The mere fact that he was a politician does not disqualify him from membership in the highest tribunal. In fact, that may be an added recommendation.

Justice Tinga graduated magna cum laude from the UE College of Law (where he later taught and served as dean). He has a master's degree from an American college. He has been in law practice for all of 42 years. He was elected for three successive terms to the House of Representatives, where he left an unblemished record.

Tinga is not the first politician to be appointed to the Supreme Court. A number of his distinguished predecessors have proved worthy jurists despite, and possibly because of, their stint in politics.

Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide Jr. was a politician before he became a justice of the Supreme Court. During the martial law regime, he was elected member of the provincial board of Cebu and later as an opposition representative of that province in the Batasang Pambansa.

So was Chief Justice Marcelo B. Fernan, who was also a minority member of the Batasang Pambansa, ran for Vice President of the Philippines in 1992 and the Senate in 1995, where he was elected president.

The best example of a politician turned outstanding jurist is Justice Jose P. Laurel, who had a checkered career in the executive and legislative branches before and after his appointment to the Supreme Court.

He served as secretary of the interior and sparked the Conley controversy that led to Cabinet Crisis of 1923. He was elected to the Senate in 1925, then to the Constitutional Convention of 1934. He was the President of the Second Philippine Republic during the Japanese Occupation and ran for President of the Philippines in 1949. He topped the senatorial election in 1951 and retired in 1957.

Laurel was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1936 and wrote many landmark decisions that are still studied in law school today. President Quezon said on one occasion that "Justice Laurel wields the most powerful pen in the Supreme Court."

His close friend and rival, Claro M. Recto, who replaced him in the Senate in 1931, served as president of the Constitutional Convention of 1934, and returned to the Senate after World War II. He was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1935 but did not stay there long to leave a record as enduring as Laurel's.

When Laurel ran for President in 1949, his running mate was Justice Manuel Briones, who resigned from the Supreme Court after serving there for four years.

Gregorio Perfecto was another politician appointed to the Supreme Court in 1945, following his election as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1934 and later as a member of the National Assembly in 1935. Perfecto was known for his colorful language that made his ponencias a delight to read with admiration and/or amusement.

In the United States, Gov. Earl Warren of California was received with a grain of salt when he was appointed Chief Justice of the federal Supreme Court in 1953. Despite his guarded acceptance by the American bar and bench, he disproved all doubts by becoming one of the greatest leaders of the high tribunal. He is best remembered for proclaiming the Miranda rights and the *coup de grâce* he administered racial segregation.

Successively governor of New York and associate justice of the Supreme Court, Charles Evan Hughes ran for President of the United States in 1916 and almost won. After serving as secretary of state, he was appointed Chief Justice in 1930.

Justice Hugo L. Black was a US senator when he was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1937, also with mixed reactions from the legal profession. He became one of its outstanding members as a strict constitutionalist and defender of the Bill of Rights.

Interestingly, Justice Frank Murphy, who served for eight years on the US Supreme Court, was formerly mayor of Detroit and later governor general of the Philippines. His political career did not impair his performance as a jurist on the highest court, where he was known as an advocate of civil liberties.

I have known Justice Tinga for many years since our teaching days in the UE College of Law and have no reason to doubt his competence as a member of the bar and, now, of the Supreme Court. I believe he can be an outstanding justice, given a chance to prove his worth. A politician is not necessarily inept or corrupt, and Justice Tinga is definitely neither.

Not being a politician is no guaranty of judicial integrity and ability. Of recent memory is a former justice of the Supreme Court who retired with dishonor after a long career in the judiciary. He should be the best refutation of the unfounded prejudice against the appointment of politicians as jurists.

Let's give Justice Dante O. Tinga a chance. He has intelligence and integrity and should be presumed deserving of the high office entrusted to him. We should first see how he discharges his duties before we render judgment. That's what due process is all about.

As a friend and colleague, I offer him sincere congratulations and my earnest wishes for his success on the high tribunal.

Corruption pays

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

YOU can't fight terrorism without fighting corruption at the same time, says the Australian government, acknowledging what everyone who has heard the story takes for granted: that corruption was involved in the "escape" of three terrorists from a cell within a jail within a compound inside the Philippine National Police headquarters, previously known as Camp Murphy and now called Camp Crame.

"Escape" is in quotes because, of course, the word is inappropriate: it does not describe what really happened, which is that the three terrorists were in effect given their freedom, through unlocked doors. They certainly didn't force their way out.

In some versions, the corruption was in the form of money—with figures running as high as $10 million (at current exchange rates, about P530 million) reportedly changing hands. Presumably a dollar figure is being cited because the most important of the three terrorists is supposed to belong to an international terrorist organization, with wide funding sources.

If the story is true, one has to lose respect for an organization that wastes its money so wantonly, paying much more than necessary for the services it gets. Look at it this way:

Assume three guards who, in their current jobs, get paid something like P7,000 a month. P2 million allotted for each of them, invested at a 5 percent rate of interest, would bring them P100,000 a year, which comes out to more than P8,000 monthly for the rest of their lives, without their lifting another finger. Those guards can be bought for P2 million each or a total of P6 million. (Some say they actually can be bought for the equivalent of a year's salary, because they would still come out ahead if they are suspended for six months without pay, which is the current penalty for "infidelity" to duty.)

Now assume that the bribes go up the chain of command, involving, say, five other people. Obviously, the higher one goes, the larger the payoff. An amount that will yield (at 5 percent a year) an average monthly income of P100,000 for life for each of the five would require another P120 million. You can make a lot of people jump for that amount.

Now, why spend P530 million when one can get the same services for P126 million?

If those who paid for the escape of Fathur al-Ghozi (an Indonesian) were indeed willing to part with P530 million, it may also mean that he is worth at least that much to them—in terms of future terrorist activities or simply to prevent his identifying others. This obviously does not augur well for the guys in the white hats.

In other versions, it is power, or more accurately the desire for it, that was the corrupting influence. PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane thinks that the "escape" was orchestrated by someone who wants his position. (There is now a hue and cry for Ebdane to resign or be fired.) Unfortunately for Ebdane, this is the second time he is crying wolf. Last year, when another notorious suspect escaped during his watch just before he was to assume the PNP command, he gave the same excuse/accusation.

Ebdane's cry is being echoed by his deputy for operations, Virtus Gil, who is apparently considered a likely successor to Ebdane. Gil thinks that he, in turn, is being implicated by someone who wants him out of the line of succession. Who Ebdane's someone is, and who Gil's someone is, may very well be the same person, but unfortunately they aren't naming names.

They are not alone in thinking of sinister power-grabbing plots. There are those among GMA supporters who view the whole sordid event as having been timed for maximum embarrassment or political disadvantage to the President (one wonders which of her critics or rivals wants to embarrass her only minimally). Thus, its occurrence during the Australian prime minister's visit and while the visit of US President Bush is being planned (presumably the hope is that it will not go through). The bottom line, also presumably, is to reduce the chances for a change of mind about seeking reelection, or, barring that, to reduce her chances at the polls.

Then there are those who see the fell hand of, in their own coy words, a "former high police official" who is at the same time "a presidential aspirant." Running on a platform of law and order, he supposedly wants public trust in the PNP to sink so low that, in comparison, his term as chief will be seen in the most favorable light. How can he manage that? His detractors have the whole story: a high prison official is known to be loyal to a "floating" police general who in turn is loyal to this aspirant.

Of course, the corrupting influence could be a combination of both the greed for money and for power—killing two birds with one stone, as it were, since one not only gets the money but can also zap one's rivals at the same time. It's a very heady combination.

But while a discussion of the motives behind allowing Al-Ghozi and his companions their freedom is fascinating, the more important question is why corruption, which is a major stumbling block not only in the war against terror, but in the war against poverty and in every effort at good governance and achieving a hard state, is endemic in our country.

The answer is quite simple. Because it is a worthwhile activity—it pays. The benefits one gets from being corrupt in this country far outweigh any possible costs (who gets caught, after all?). Until we change that reality, the best we can do is bumble along.

A first in Swiss banking history

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE PNP's explanation for the escape of the notorious terrorist, Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, and his two associates is that the PNP jail has a "structural defect." According to a PNP informant who participated in yesterday's scheduled "reenactment scene," it turned out that the window of the prison can be opened from within without destroying the lock. This defect has apparently been there through the terms of a number of PNP chiefs, including now Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

But that only makes the PNP look even more inept! Doubtless many won't find this story credible.

Compounding the ineptness was the unbelievable retention by PNP jail officials of a former Abu Sayyaf man as janitor. He apparently became the conduit and facilitator of Al-Ghozi's escape. That move was very Filipino, relaxed *na* relaxed and *sobrang kampante*, but we now know how totally destructive it was.

* * *

The escape of the notorious prisoners gives the country a big black eye. It looks like a Filipino comedy of errors. The President has to drastically overhaul the PNP and with the latest revelation of incredible laxity, PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane has to go, under the principle of command responsibility. The escape is lamentable as it erases the PNP's many recent accomplishments against kidnapping, carnapping and illegal drug trafficking under Ebdane.

* * *

I talked on the phone recently to Interior Secretary Jose Lina and he attempted to put the whole episode in perspective. While stressing that he is not making an excuse for the PNP, Lina said other governments have had to deal with all kinds of embarrassing episodes, too, citing the attack on the Indian Parliament and the Moscow theater in recent times. One might also recall the terrorist attack on the heartland of the US defense establishment, the Pentagon, in September 2001. Lina expressed confidence that the government will be able to recover from this, but the rank inefficiency in the PNP must not go unreformed.

* * *

There is also the question of corruption in PNP ranks raised by an Australian newspaper in rather harsh terms. It opined that the Philippines' anti-terrorism campaign cannot be carried out successfully until corruption in the police is tackled. Corruption in the PNP has been around for a long while now, and reading the report of the Senate joint committees on the involvement of former high-ranking PNP officials in drug trafficking and kidnapping for ransom drives home the point only too well.

* * *

Lina said the authorities are looking at the "confluence of motivations" which include money having changed hands and the political angle that a group is out to embarrass the President. I also queried him about rumors that PNP Deputy Director Virtus Gil helped Al-Ghozi escape for a huge sum of money, and he dismissed this as "baseless and malicious." I myself found it incredible, since I know Gil to be a principled guy. He was one of the PMA '71 officers who went against the coup plot of his mistah, then Col. Gregorio Honasan.

* * *

The recent Supreme Court decision, penned by Justice Renato Corona, to return to the government the Marcos Swiss deposits amounting to nearly $682 million or P31 billion was unanimous, with 12 justices voting in the affirmative, one abstaining (Justice Antonio Carpio) and two officially on leave. Thus, even if the Marcos heirs appeal for reconsideration, it is unlikely that the Court will reverse itself.

* * *

The return of the Marcos deposits marks the first time in the history of the Swiss banking system that the ill-gotten deposits of a deposed dictator has been returned to the people and government. This didn't happened in the cases of the Shah of Iran who was overthrown in 1979 or Haiti's dictator Baby Doc Duvalier or the Somoza family. The Marcos Swiss deposits thus have made history in international jurisprudence.

* * *

The story of those Swiss deposits has been long and tortuous. Years back, former Sandiganbayan Justice Catalino Castañeda had ruled in favor of the government, but when Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena took over the case after Castañeda's retirement, he overturned it on the technicality that the Swiss Supreme Court decision allowing the return of the deposits was not "officially translated." Corona, in his decision, opined that official translation was not necessary since what was at issue was the Marcos family's inability to show that their declared income enabled them to accumulate such a fabulous wealth. The wrong decision of an Ateneo law graduate was righted by another Atenean.

* * *

The Marcoses now insist that the Swiss deposits belong to the various foundations in whose name they were deposited. But it is well-known in Europe that foundations, such as the Lalag Foundation and Galalsa Foundation established in Lichtenstein, were Marcos fronts. The Marcoses have a history of now denying it, now claiming it, whichever is convenient at the moment.

For instance, in November 2002, Marcos aides Fe and Ignacio Gimenez and Roberto Olanday, obviously on orders of Imelda Marcos, sought to unfreeze some $6 million in Swiss accounts which were the subject of criminal and forfeiture cases filed by the PCGG with the Sandiganbayan. Then too, in 1995, during the Ramos administration, a comprehensive compromise agreement that included the Swiss deposits was signed between then PCGG Chair Magtanggol Gunigundo and Imelda Marcos, based on a sharing arrangement of 75-25 percent in favor of the government. In 1998 former Solicitor General Francisco Chavez challenged the legality of the agreement before the Supreme Court which subsequently voided the deal in a decision penned by Justice Artemio Panganiban.

The Calisaan 'quads'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THE DEATH of Maria Jhobelle Calisaan, who outlived her three siblings born from a quadruplet pregnancy for just two days, is truly a tragedy, and I can hardly imagine the grief and suffering of her parents, Jocelyn and Vladimir.

But all the media coverage of the events leading to the deaths of Maria Jhobelle and her sisters, it seems to me, has tended to focus much too narrowly on the culpability of the lying-in clinic and the hospital to which Jocelyn and the babies were rushed. The INQUIRER story, and most TV news shows and radio commentaries, focused on the claims of Vladimir that they had been "passed from one hospital to another" when he rushed his wife and babies for confinement after Jocelyn had an emergency "normal" delivery at a small lying-in clinic. Vladimir focused his rage on the Manila Central University (MCU) Hospital where he said doctors declined to confine his prematurely born children because they had no incubators to spare. Our report also quoted Jocelyn as saying that her daughters could have survived had the MCU Hospital given them immediate attention.

I understand that the Department of Health and even the city government of Caloocan have begun their investigations, so it's too early to say whether the clinic and hospital should be held responsible for the four girls' deaths or if they were merely caught in the middle of a difficult situation headed toward inevitable tragedy.

"*Mahirap talaga* (it's really difficult)," said Dr. Analyn Coden, an obstetrician-gynecologist, when I asked her about the chances of a successful delivery of a multiple pregnancy. Quadruplets, according to Denise M. Chism, author of the "High-Risk Pregnancy Sourcebook" quoted in WebMD, a website on health concerns, occur in one in every 575,000 pregnancies. And the mother of "quads," says Chism, is "guaranteed to have an early delivery."

* * *

A BABY'S chances of surviving birth rises the longer he or she stays in the mother's womb. A premature delivery, which occurs in 6 to 10 percent of all pregnancies and which Dr. Coden says is any delivery which takes place before the 37th week (nine months) of gestation, is fraught with risks for the child. A baby who is born underweight, even if born on or after the 37th week, is also considered premature, though Dr. Coden recalls delivering a baby who weighed only 650 gm at birth but managed to survive, though only after months of hospitalization and expensive treatment.

Dr. Carina Cruz Quimbo, a neo-natologist who consults with, among many other hospitals, the MCU, also tells of a child who was born at 26 weeks and 500 gm and still survived.

Dr. Quimbo lists the numerous immediate health risks that "preemies" face: damage to the underdeveloped eyes, bleeding in the brain "because a premature baby's arteries are much too fragile," and collapsed lungs due to the lack of surfactants that allow the lungs to expand and take in air. Even if they survive, children born prematurely are also at particular risk of developing health problems like cerebral palsy, mental retardation and developmental delays.

I don't know if Jocelyn received pre-natal counseling and care, and of what quality, but Chism says even the mother of multiples needs to take special care during her pregnancy. She will be more prone to developing anemia and may be vomiting much more. A multiple pregnancy also needs close and special monitoring, with more office or clinic visits than usual and more ultrasounds to determine whether all the fetuses are developing as normally as possible. To delay premature delivery as long as possible, some doctors may even prescribe complete bed rest for the mother. She will also need to take on more calories, since Dr. Coden says poor nutrition and anemia are "triggers" for premature delivery.

* * *

DR. Coden says that if she had a patient with a multiple pregnancy, she would register the mother and reserve a bed or room for her in a hospital with a neo-natal intensive care unit (NICU) or at least a ventilator and incubator for the babies. "There should also be a neo-natal team on stand-by because the chances for premature delivery are high."

The delivery and care of a premature baby—let alone four of them born simultaneously—is no small matter. Surfactants cost P17,000 a dose and a single baby needs two doses. Dr. Coden says the cost for the care of a "preemie" can reach as high as P20,000 a day, though Dr. Quimbo says it can be half the cost in a government hospital.

But even if they could afford the treatment, the Calisaans still faced daunting odds with their quadruplets. Dr. Quimbo, who was called in to consult when the Calisaan quads were brought to the MCU, says it was hardly possible "to have four unused respirators ready and available" at one time in any hospital, so big is the demand for them. The MCU Hospital, she said, has only six and they were all being used by other "preemies" when the Calisaans arrived.

* * *

DR. Quimbo chafes at suggestions that the quads were neglected or ignored while at the MCU. "In the first place," she says, "the mother should have been rushed to a big hospital the minute she felt contractions." When the babies were brought in to the emergency room, says Dr. Quimbo, "they were already blue and cold. But the ER staff was able to warm them up and opened their airways to expand their lungs and they were pink when they were transferred." The Calisaan quads were transferred to the Fabella Medical Center where they eventually died.

Was it indeed poverty that killed the Calisaan quads, as their parents tearfully told reporters? Maybe so, but the bigger tragedy is that they could have survived if only the adults in charge of them had been better prepared.

(More tomorrow)

Observations of a British consul

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

W. GIFFORD Palgrave served as British consul from 1876 to 1878. Ten years later, he published a book entitled, "The Filipinos of Yesterday." There are details this foreigner wrote that perhaps our local writers took for granted and therefore did not bother to note down. Here then is another picture of the world of those ancestors of ours:

The church buildings included a spacious presbytery (*sacristia*), the design and construction courtesy of the parish priest, in most instances a Spaniard belonging to the Augustinian, Dominican or Recollect Order, who adapted a Renaissance style but due to the frequency of earthquakes favored low walls, flanked by ponderous buttresses with a massive octagonal bell-tower.

The music was usually contributed by a native brass band playing not just European music but operatic. The "Gloria" was accompanied by an air from "Trovatore," the "Credo" followed by an adaptation from "Barbiere" and the host elevated with background music from "La Traviata." Whether it was appropriate or not, the townspeople were happy and satisfied with it. No village of any importance throughout the islands was without its own band, with carefully selected and expensive brass instruments and skilled players to match. Palgrave thought that next to the fighting cock, music offered the greatest solace to the Filipino.

The religion of the Philippines consisted of "Mariolatry," "Hagiolatry," the whole system one of idolatry, man worship and creature worship carried to an extreme limit. Although, according to Palgrave, "it is a religion admirably adapted to the requirements of the people, and proportionately beneficial."

The natives it seems had never really given up their ancestor worship; they merely adapted the Catholic Christian system "and placed its mythico-historical virgins, saints and martyrs at the head of the unseen kingdom already tenanted by their proper ancestors and relatives, till they had a well-stocked Olympian Valhalla. The older creed, he believed, existed even in Manila itself, in the convents and cathedrals, beneath the Christianized surface through rarely obtruding on European observations: Cybelian priesthoods, Cotyttian rites, repressed but not obliterated.

Showing themselves better colonizers than the French, the Spanish did not replace the barangay organization of the villages with novel systems of their own but maintained it. The position of barangay captain was not sought after because frequently its responsibilities, specifically with relation to tax collections, ended up bankrupting the *capitan* who had to answer for any shortfalls. The barangay captain usually was expected to play host and offer his house to all visitors or at least pass them on to a wealthy member of the community who was inconvenienced and had to vacate rooms in favor of the visitors.

The houses of the town *ilustrados* stood apart, on the main streets; no Filipino wanted to construct his house in immediate contact with another family. A garden surrounded it, fenced in by bamboo or stone walls and thick-set with plants, creepers, betel nut palms and bananas shading the enclosure.

Only the second floor of the house was occupied. One entered it through a wide staircase leading to a passageway, called the *caida*, facing the street where the family enjoyed its leisure and received visitors. Behind it was a large central room, all doors and windows, where the costliest articles of furniture were kept. The walls were covered with colored prints of Spanish origin, devotional or family portraits executed by native artists with detailed accuracy. Glass globes, red and blue as well as European chandeliers hung from the ceiling. There was as well an oratory or small altar occupying a corner of the room.

On one particular festival day, Palgrave noted lamps placed at every window and doorway, flower garlands in between and arches of cane, festooned with white or red cloth and hung with lanterns, decorating main thoroughfares. Countless lamps, from base to summit, illuminated the massive bell tower. From the pillared church front streamed what looked like the entire village and flocking crowds from adjoining hamlets who had come to join in the festivities. In two endless streams, men and boys in their barongs on one side, with women and girls in their stripped silk shirts and embroidered blouses with lighted tapers in their hands, talking, laughing and making merry on the other.

The procession wound on and all the while was heard the firing of rockets and bursting of crackers, with the principal images of virgin martyrs, diademed and covered with real jewels, borne on the shoulders of stout youth. The black official jackets of the village dignitaries on one side of a gigantic litter, with their long-tressed wives on the other side, enthroned was Heaven's Queen herself ablaze with tinsel and diamonds amid a blazing pyramid of tapers. All around swelled the devout murmur of prayers and the triumphant boom of the village band as it blared out its liveliest march.

Learning

YOUNG BLOOD

Myla Hayo Torres

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

AFTER FOUR years in the university, I came out convinced that the hardest part about learning is not dragging yourself to school (although this could be a problem if you have a class at 7 a.m.), or dealing with anxiety while cramming for exams (I got the hang of it to the point that it became an exhilarating experience to finish a test). It is not even writing those long papers in a hurry, for it led to the discovery that beating deadlines actually stimulates my creative juices.

The most difficult part was accepting the reality that no matter how much studying you do, no matter how much Glutaphos you take or coffee you drink, you can never know everything.

I was a junior journalism student when I met Prof. Albina Fernandez. She fit my image of a woman who had aged gracefully, garbed in her color-coordinated clothes, shoes and bags. Her long black hair, streaked with some gray strands, was always neatly tied in a bun.

Monday and Thursday afternoons, I literally had to drag my feet way up the fourth floor of the decrepit Palma Hall at the University of the Philippines in Diliman for my required Rizal course, a.k.a. Philippine Institutions 100 or PI 100. For those who consider it as another course to flunk, "PI" also stands for that vulgar Filipino cuss word.

Our first few meetings with Professor Fernandez were a big disappointment for me. I would often sneer behind her back because I was hoping we could talk more about Rizal instead of gossiping about some dumb actor who got elected into a high government post. Unlike others who detested this general education course, I had looked forward to studying Rizal. At the tender age of 12, I had vowed to marry a man like him if I could not have the real thing.

With that kind of passion for our national hero, one can just imagine my disappointment when instead of talking about Rizal, our teacher kept discussing superstructures and Hegel and Feuerbach. She explained that she wanted to focus on how Rizal turned out to be the man he was and not the number of women he had seduced.

Too bad, I thought, then I won't be able to show off my knowledge about some intriguing aspects of his life. I instantly hated our professor's guts. She knew too much and expected us to know as much too. She never missed the opportunity to make us sound silly every time we answered her questions.

But as the semester wore on, I started to look forward to our discussions. She constantly reminded us not to pretend to know something when in fact we only heard a fraction of it, or worse, to get involved in issues of which we have very little understanding. The university was teeming with people like this. They talked about Karl Marx and even quoted him, when in fact they hadn't even read the "Communist Manifesto." Outside the campus we knew a handful of leaders and politicians who presented the same false facade of knowing everything. And look where they brought us.

I used to think that a great teacher was someone who could make me understand new ideas. Professor Fernandez fit that description but what made her even more exceptional was her uncanny ability to make us appreciate learning. She instilled in us the need to rise above idiocy, to wash away traces of (and I am quoting her now) "below sea-level consciousness."

"The greatest tragedy in this world is that you are dead without you knowing it," she often told us. The fact is that we go through life blaming other people for our failures, for remaining poor and for all the crises we face. And for some of us, ignorance is a trouble-free attitude.

A year after graduation, as I join the throng of twentysomethings undergoing our own crises and disappointments, the drive to learn and make a difference has remained, despite the not-so-pleasant working condition and the unreasonably small pay I am getting. I stubbornly insist on working in the media, continuing to believe in the nobility of the profession.

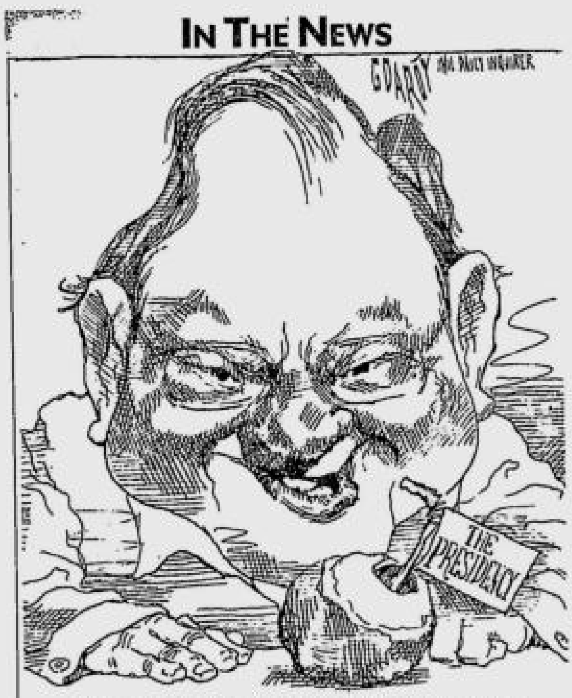
No matter how idealistic and naïve it seems, I still dream of the day when we will be able to take control of our lives; when all of us will be able to choose sensibly whom to believe and what to believe in; when believing in a single truth will not be as important as accepting the difference in others.

School started again last June amid typhoons, a SARS scare and the perennial problem of having a tight budget. Knowledge isn't free, especially in our country. One has to buy books and pay thousands of pesos for a semester of study at a good university even if it is state-owned like UP.

Perhaps more than anything else, the question of whether our schools and teachers instill the right attitude toward learning is worth serious pondering.

Myla Hayo Torres, 21, works at the news desk of a television network. She stays up nights monitoring the news and sleeps during daytime.

IN THE NEWS



Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco

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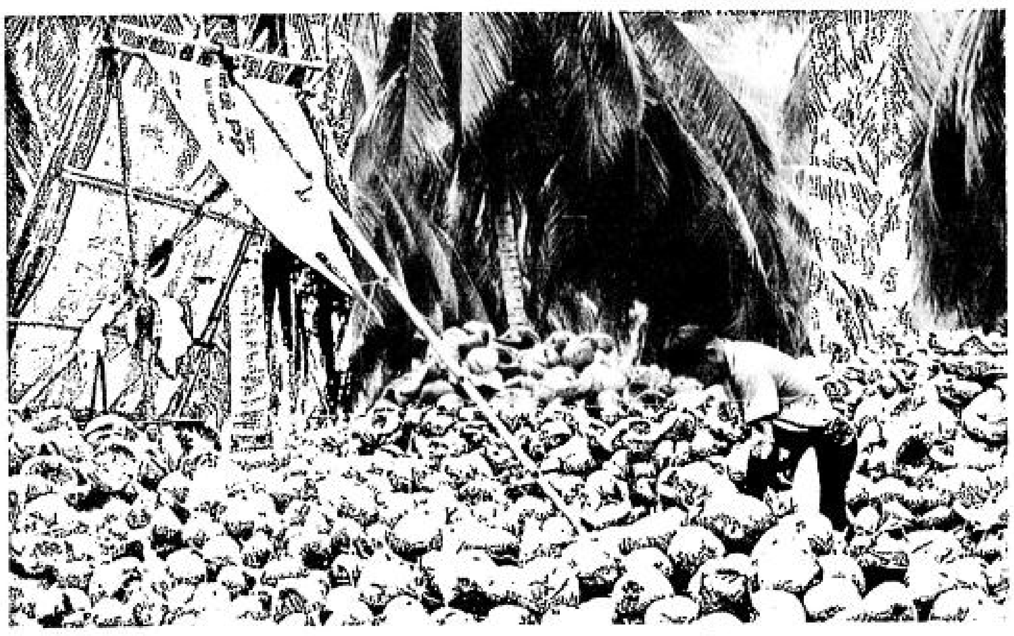

Windfall due to coco farmers

COCONUT farmers welcome the much awaited though much delayed Sandiganbayan decision on the coconut levy cases. Now that the decision of the Sandiganbayan confirms the public nature and ownership of the coco levy funds and assets, the millions of coconut farmers should step up making their claims and participation in government programs for the farmers and the industry.

One immediate source of funds for coconut farmer programs is the 750 million shares owned by the Coconut Industry Investment Fund in San Miguel Corp. This portion was acquired during the early 1980s by the Cojuangco clique, along with the other 20 percent, which Cojuangco named after his dummy corporations, in order to take control of SMC. The 750 million shares were bought with a loan from the United Coconut Planters Bank, which recently got paid in full for its dividends.

This means that there will be fresh and liquid dividends coming from the shares starting this year. At a conservative P1 dividend per share, there should be some P750 million that can be allocated in addition to the P700 million initially released last year by the UCPB-CIIF group of companies.

Furthermore, the government nominees on the SMC board must do their job and act on the 27 percent claim of the coconut farmers. They are now sitting on the board of SMC for the coconut farmers. If they will not be able to take the heat inside, then they better step down and take Cojuangco with them.

—JOEY T. FAUSTINO,
executive director,
Coconut Industry Reform
(COIR) Movement Inc.,
84 Masikap Ext.,
Barangay Central, Diliman, QC

Keep gov't out of SMC

I'M one of the minority stockholders of San Miguel Corp. who has benefited so much from the negligible investment I made in 1983.

As we all know, SMC has been one of the well-managed, progressive and very profitable private companies in the country, from the time of the Sorianos up to the present.

I, therefore, dread the day when the government takes over this firm's management. For as sure as the sun rising in the morning, SMC will also suffer the fate that unfortunately has befallen the Government Service Insurance System and the Social Security System.

—HANNAH LILLIAN M. VICENTE,
46 Sunburst St., SSS Village,
Marikina City

Simple questions for Chief Justice

BETWEEN YOUR editorial, entitled "The clown" (PDI, 7/14/03), and the commentary on the same issue of Dean Jorge Bocobo, entitled "The Supreme Court takes the Fifth," I go with Bocobo 100 percent.

Is lawyer Alan Paguia a "clown" for asking 12 simple questions of Chief Justice Hilario Davide, which according to Bocobo are answerable with a simple yes or no, and ask for the simple truth about Edsa II? I agree with Bocobo that the questions asked by Paguia could easily be answered by Davide if his conscience is clear, and if he has not violated the Constitution on Presidential Removal and Replacement, as the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

Supreme Court justices are not above the law and the Constitution. The Sandiganbayan may be an inferior court but it is a constitutional office, which has also the responsibility of defending the Constitution. It may not be proper for it to overrule the Supreme Court, but it could emphasize and point out to the Supreme Court the truth about Edsa II, and the alleged "permanent disability" or "effective resignation" of President Joseph Estrada.

Simple citizens like us deserve to be answered truthfully by Chief Justice Davide.

—ALBERTO A. FEBRERO,
Ceso V, Department of Education,
Region VI-Western Visayas,
Bago City

Prosecutors told to speed up trial of Chinese poachers in Palawan

THIS is in reaction to the column of Rina Jimenez-David where she narrated the report of an environmentalist friend that I had ordered Assistant Chief State Prosecutor Nilo C. Mariano not to pursue the case filed against the Chinese poachers caught in Malampaya late last year and that private lawyers arguing in behalf of public interest and environmentalist groups were denied the opportunity to even help in its prosecution.

There is no truth to the allegation. Considering that we have good diplomatic relations with China, I merely relayed to Mariano the concern and sentiment of the officials of the Chinese Embassy over the plight of the 38 Chinese fishermen who were caught in Malampaya and instructed him to inform our prosecutor who is handling the case in Palawan to work for a speedy trial.

To say that I ordered Mariano not to pursue the case is highly unfair and undermines the independence of our prosecutors.

I would have appreciated it if David had first given me the opportunity to air my side on the issue so that she could have been enlightened on the issue before she wrote that column.

David also quoted her friend as saying, "There was no need for Al-Ghozi to escape" and that "If he waited long enough, the DOJ would have let him go as an act of goodwill."

This statement is uncalled for particularly at this time when some countries are lamenting the escape of international terrorist Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi.

It saddens me to say that this article would again taint the image of our criminal justice system and erode the confidence of the public in the system.

—MA. MERCEDITAS N. GUTIERREZ,
undersecretary,
Department of Justice,
Padre Faura, Manila

Neglected road repair

LAST month again, as a tourist, I had occasion to travel the length of Southern Luzon, to cross on the ferry to Samar, and by road to Catbalogan. I was saddened by the deterioration of the road surface. First on the Quirino Highway, second, but more so, on the highway in Western Samar.

The road surface is broken up by heavy transport and the weather. There is little sign of all but essential repairs due to landslides.

It is so disappointing that no permanent repairs are being made on this important national highway, affecting the daily lives of many ordinary Filipinos.

—CLYDE SHOEBRIDGE,
Cruzeiro Street, Villa Carolina I,
Tunasan, Muntinlupa City

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Issue is economics, not aesthetics

WHO is Nelia Halcon and why is she saying mean things about us?

In her commentary, "Samar is torn over a non-issue," she wrote that if our aim in proposing that our forest reserve be declared a natural park was "to preserve the scenery and natural habitat in order to provide enjoyment in such area, the poor people of Samar would not understand simply because they are preoccupied with finding their next meal or, to be blunt about it, finding the means to survive."

No, our aim is not aesthetic but economic. The poor people of Samar derive subsistence from the farmlands, the fishing grounds and the forest, which we believe will be gravely damaged by mining operations, like what happened to Taft River and the farmlands it nourished on account of Bagacay Mines.

No, we are not proposing to close the area to economic activity but to mining as an economic activity. For Halcon's information, there is economic activity in Samar now. More than half its population produce crops and craft to feed themselves. And we believe mining is a threat to such economic activities.

No, the bauxite in Samar cannot be utilized to develop the island—not even the nation—because it will just be exported as ore. In fact, several members of the Chamber of Mines have called for a moratorium on mining until we shall have developed industries that will utilize our mineral resources.

The development we need is in agriculture and fishery (e.g., less than 4 percent of our lowlands are irrigated), for that would benefit most of us in Samar—if meagerly compared to what the owners of mining companies would earn from the bauxite beneath our farms and forests.

No, the concept of sustainable development has not really been understood, but it is not in the Samar bishops' and mayors' mind that the concept is muddled. The debate between development and protecting the environment was not settled in Rio de Janeiro, if Halcon was referring to the Earth Summit. It was institutionalized. In that summit, consultation became the foundation of sustainable development.

No, we are not Will Durant's savages who spent all their lives looking (looking, by the way, is what makes people preoccupied—not finding) for their next meal. Despite our fabled poverty, we are civilized enough to appreciate beauty.

—ROMEO D. BOHOL,
Sangkay Inc.-The Alliance
of Samar Hometown
Organizations in Metro Manila;
romybohol@yahoo.com

A long history of priestly celibacy

PRIESTS are no longer wearing clerical clothes nowadays and their lifestyle, leisure activity and public behavior are left to their mature judgment.

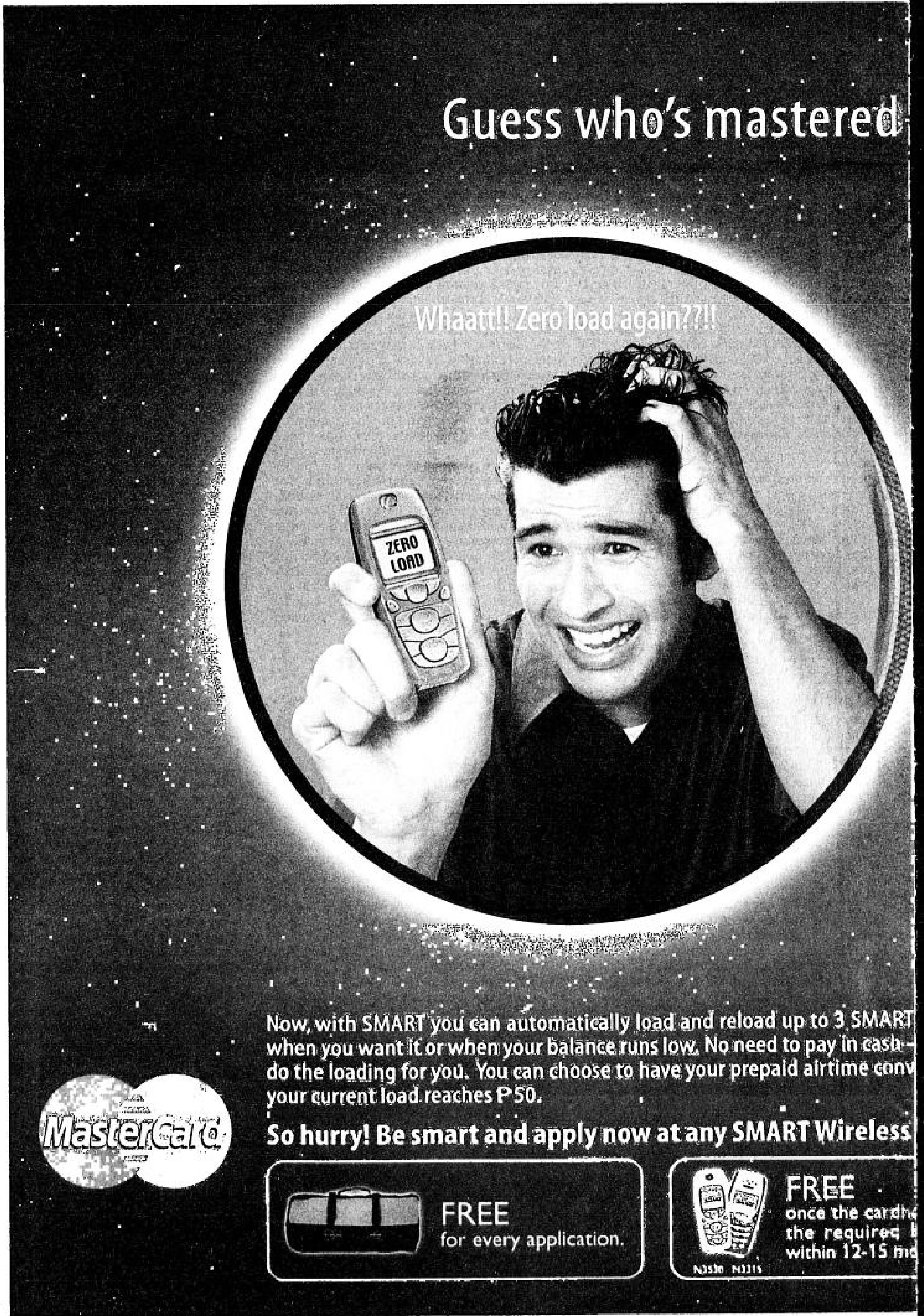
When a man is ordained to the priesthood and receives the sacrament, he establishes a new and special relationship with Jesus and he has responsibilities in the service of all people. The power to offer the sacrifice of the Eucharist or administering the sacrament of Penance is never lost. If a man has left the priesthood, he may not normally say Mass or hear confessions, except in emergency cases like when a dying person wishes to go to confession or receive the Eucharist and no priest is available.

How did this tradition of celibacy get started? The only figure in the Old Testament who was celibate was the prophet Jeremiah. The Lord told him not to marry as a sign to the people that children then being born would die in the tragedies to come. The first general law in the Western Church obliging the clergy to a celibate life did not appear until the later part of the fourth century.

In the next 700 years, the marriage of priests, deacons and bishops was unlawful in the Western Church. The Council of Trent in 1563 reaffirmed the law of clerical celibacy and declared that priestly celibacy was a matter of church law, not divine law. In other words, the Church could change its legislation concerning celibacy and priests would no longer be obliged to observe it. The Church did for deacons during the Vatican Council II when it instituted a married permanent deacon.

Clerical celibacy has been rocky through the centuries and perhaps the Church is not prepared to alter easily a practice which has been so intimately a part of its life for the past 17 centuries.

—PETE N. BELTRAN,
11 Bulletin St.,
Quezon City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Bush, Blair close ranks over Iraq

New 'Saddam tape' calls for jihad

WASHINGTON/BAGHDAD—US President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair defended the Iraq war on Thursday, as an audiotape attributed to ousted Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein called for "jihad" to oust occupying troops.

In a speech to the US Congress, Blair said history would forgive the United States and Britain for invading Iraq, even if they were proved wrong about the threat from its weapons of mass destruction.

"If we are right, as I believe with every fiber and instinct of conviction I have that we are, and we do not act, then we will have hesitated in the face of this menace when we should have given leadership. That is something history will not forgive," Blair said in what was billed as one of the most important foreign speeches of his premiership.

Bush insisted that Iraq had chemical and biological weapons and was trying to reconstitute its nuclear weapons program.

"The regime of Saddam Hussein was a grave and growing threat. Given Saddam's history of violence and aggression, it would have been reckless to place our trust in his sanity or his restraint," he told a joint news conference with Blair.

"As long as I hold this office I will never risk the lives of American citizens by assuming the good will of dangerous enemies about such such weapons," he said.

The CIA was determining whether the audiotape aired on Arab television on Thursday was genuine, but US officials familiar with Saddam's voice said it sounded like him.

Saddam has not been found since he was toppled on April 9. US officials believe he is probably in northern Iraq.

The tape said: "The enemy wants to weaken Iraq and the only genuine solution is to resist the occupation through jihad (holy struggle) to inflict losses and evict the enemy."

He described as "baseless" allegations Iraq had weapons of mass destruction and vowed resistance would intensify.

"I am confident that our people who rejected the occupation will resist them," the voice said.

Bush and Blair held their first White House meeting since Blair has come under intense attack at home for the failure to find Saddam's suspected weapons of mass destruction, which both used to justify the invasion.

The allies have not enjoyed the expected period of triumph after the swift military campaign. Political chaos grips parts of Iraq, troops face guerrilla attacks and public trust in Blair has slumped. Bush's approval ratings have slipped since he declared an end to major combat in May.

A controversy over British-provided intelligence that Iraq sought to purchase uranium in Africa, which Bush cited in his State of the Union address, has been particularly heated.

Blair said Britain stands by that intelligence.

"In the 1980s we know for sure that Iraq purchased about 270 tons of uranium from Niger. So I think we should just factor that into our thinking there," he said.

Bush lavished praise on Blair, the first British prime minister to address a joint session of Congress since Margaret Thatcher in 1985, and only the fourth ever to do so. *Reuters*

SITTING PRETTY

The Perry sextuplets, from left: Ian, Simon, Olivia, Zoe, Joshua and Madison line up for their first group portrait at home in Pittsburgh, July 15. The last of the Perry sextuplets was discharged from a Pittsburgh hospital on Tuesday, just in time to celebrate turning four months old at home with her five other siblings. AP

HK leader resists calls to quit

HONG KONG—Hong Kong's embattled leader Tung Chee-hwa was defiant Thursday in the face of calls for him to step down after two key cabinet resignations failed to dampen the territory's worst political crisis since its return to China six years ago.

In his first media briefing since the resignations of the security and finance secretaries were announced late Wednesday, Tung faced a barrage of blunt questions whether he would accede to demands that he also leave his Beijing-appointed position.

"I don't think at a time when Hong Kong most needs political and social stability, when Hong Kong is in a most difficult time, and when it is at a critical stage of the economic restructuring... if I say I am leaving my post, I think that is irresponsible," a drawn and haggard Tung said.

"For that reason, I must stay firm in my post so I can lead Hong Kong toward a better future."

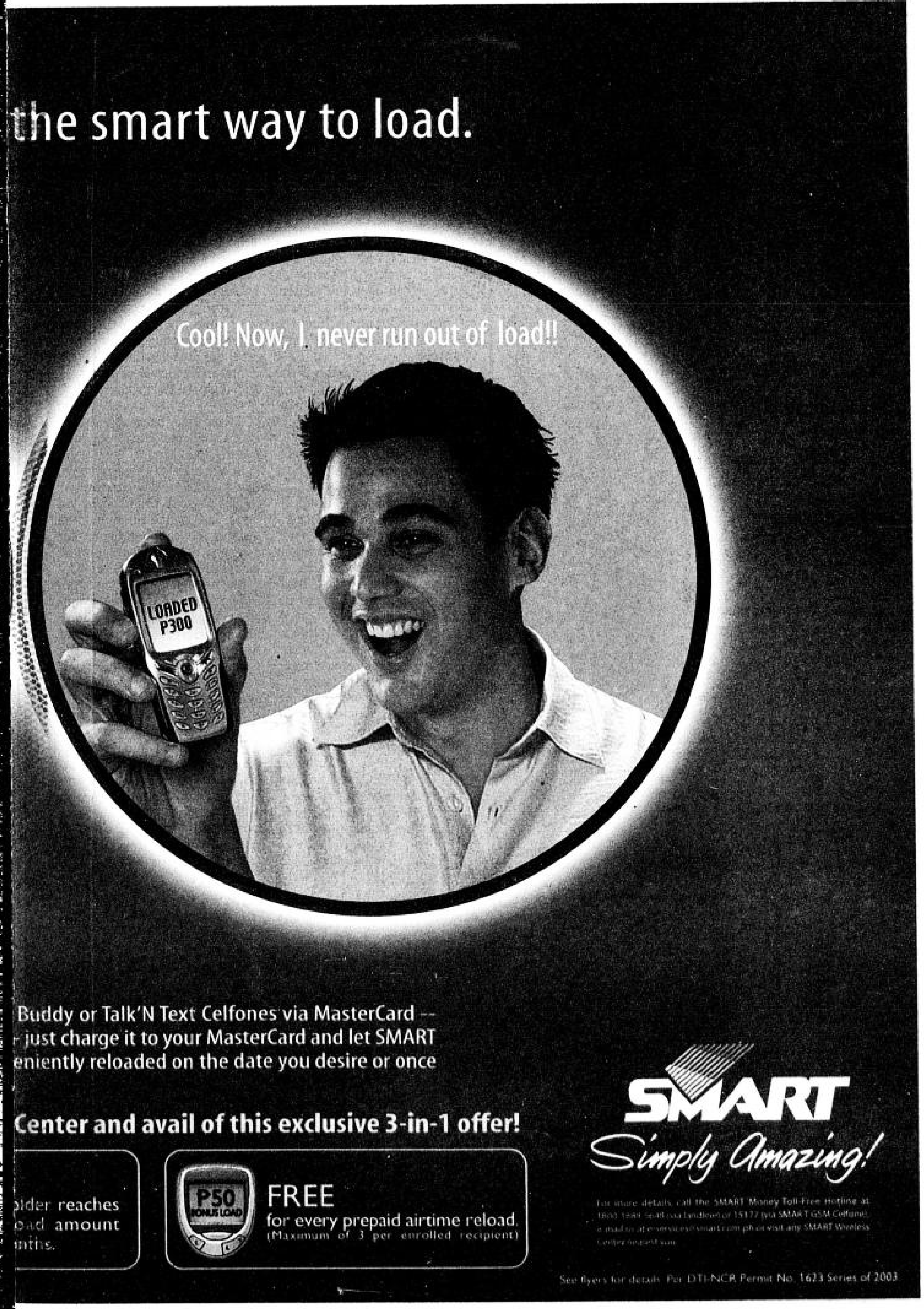
Calls for Tung's head have resounded across the former British colony as it battles to lift itself from the gloom of a dire economic situation, the SARS epidemic and unhappiness over a planned security law.

Unappeased by the resignations announced Wednesday of financial secretary Antony Leung and security secretary Regina Ip, three pro-democracy groups handed a petition to the government Thursday demanding Tung quit.

The departure of the ministers was "not enough," said legislator Emily Lau of the Frontier Party, one of the groups behind the petition.

"Mr. Tung is the crux of the matter," she told RTHK radio. "If Tung steps down, there may be new hope for Hong Kong."

The territory is keenly awaiting the outcome of a visit to Beijing Saturday by Tung, who is believed to have been summoned to the capital. *AFP*



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WORLDBRIEFS

N. Korea moving toward talks

WASHINGTON—Prospects for new talks on the Korean nuclear crisis brightened Thursday as US officials said the Stalinist state appeared ready to join another negotiating session with China and the United States. Even as North and South Korean troops exchanged fire across the demilitarized zone that has divided the peninsula for 50 years, a new flurry of diplomacy was under way aimed at finding a negotiated way out of the drama which erupted last October. There were signs that the three-way dialogue could be expanded to include Japan and South Korea, as Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Dai Bingguo was due in Washington to brief top US policymakers days after meeting North Korean leader Kim Jong-il. "From what we know so far, and what we have been talking to the Chinese about, North Korea is willing to resume another round of Beijing talks that could be expanded," a senior US official said on condition of anonymity. The United States has always insisted on a multilateral format for the talks and has been eager to include its Japanese and South Korean allies. *AFP*

Faked Iraq-Niger uranium papers

WASHINGTON—The US Embassy in Rome was given forged documents detailing alleged Iraqi attempts to acquire uranium from Niger from a private source last October, a senior State Department official said Thursday. "In October 2002, we acquired these documents in Rome from a private source, a non governmental source, and they were immediately shared with all the appropriate agencies," the official said. "The embassy shared them with all the relevant agencies at post and they were then shared again when they got back to Washington," the official told reporters on condition of anonymity. The official would not confirm reports in the Italian press that the documents had been given to the embassy by a foreign journalist. Italy's leading newspaper Corriere della Serra said the journalist was "very probably Italian." The FBI said Thursday it had opened an investigation into the origin of the false documents. *AFP*

Abbas, Sharon to resume dialogue

JERUSALEM—Palestinian prime minister Mahmud Abbas is to resume dialogue with his Israeli counterpart Ariel Sharon next week ahead of his landmark visit to Washington, officials said Thursday. The two prime ministers are to meet "at the beginning of next week before Mahmud Abbas' trip to Washington," where he is due to hold talks with US President George W. Bush on July 25, a senior Israeli official said. A meeting scheduled for July 9 was called off after a row between Abbas and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, centered around Abbas's failure so far to persuade Israel to release more than 350 of the estimated 6,000 Palestinians in its jails. But Israeli army radio reported Thursday that Sharon would show "flexibility" on the prisoners issue. He would sanction the freeing of "administrative detainees" belonging to the radical Islamic groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad but who have not been implicated in the killings of Israelis, it said. *AFP*

Diplomats to mediate in Sao Tome

SAO TOME—The Community of Portuguese-speaking Nations agreed Thursday to send a mission to Sao Tome and Principe as part of a bid to mediate between the leaders of a coup in the island nation and the ousted government whose members remain in the hands of the putschists. As deposed president Fradique de Menezes, stranded in Nigeria, sought to rally international support, a spokesperson for the head of the African Union, Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano, said military intervention could be considered to restore the democratically elected government in the oil-rich but impoverished west African archipelago. But Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim, whose country currently heads the Community of Portuguese-speaking Nations, said the organization would send a team headed by a minister from Angola and which had De Menezes' backing. *AFP*

Liberia rebels closer to capital

MONROVIA—Liberian rebels advanced closer to the capital Monrovia on Thursday evening, sending weary civilians scurrying for refuge and heightening fears of a third assault on the city in two months. The fighting undermined a shaky truce agreement which was designed to pave the way for the deployment of West African peacekeepers and possibly troops from the United States. Defense Minister Daniel Chea said the rebels had reached a key government command post at Combat Camp and were now headed toward the Po River, an important line of defense just 12 km from the city limits. *Reuters*

US changes tack on court row

BRUSSELS—Washington switched tack on Thursday in its face-off with Europe on the new world war crimes court, moving away from legal arguments in its bid for deals to shield US military and appealing instead for "pragmatism." A senior State Department official said France had taken steps to put its nationals beyond the reach of the International Criminal Court and countries in the Afghan peacekeeping force had guaranteed immunity from prosecution for troops there. But he stopped short of accusing Europe of hypocrisy over an issue which has been a major contributor to transatlantic tensions over the past 18 months. *Reuters*

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Storm kills 2, displaces thousands in E. Visayas

By the PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—Thousands of families were dislocated as two persons were confirmed to have died while two others were declared missing when tropical storm "Gilas" hit parts of the Visayas.

Heavy rains and strong winds also toppled power lines causing brownouts in Southern Leyte and Biliran.

In Antique, rescue teams and divers were sent to Tibiao town yesterday after strong waves brought by "Gilas" forced an oil tanker to tilt on its right side off the shores of the town. It was carrying 1,180 kiloliters of bunker fuel.

Adriano Fuego, regional director of the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) in Eastern Visayas, identified the fatality as Lorena Luberas, 23, of Barangay Patag, Ormoc City.

Luberas was evacuating from her home along with other neighbors living near Bantigue River but she drowned as she was about to cross the river swollen by heavy rains.

In Negros Occidental, the body of Cristitoto Tumbaga Sr., 50, was found at about 7:45 a.m. yesterday floating in the shoreline of Barangay San Miguel, Toboso town. He was reportedly carried away by rushing waters while crossing a river at 5 p.m. Thursday.

Meanwhile, farmer Marino Crusio, about 50 years old, tried to help schoolchildren cross the river at Sitio Maho-baho in Barangay San Agustin, Isabela, Negros Occidental when he fell into the water and has been reported missing since 4 p.m. Thursday.

A fisherman, Roger Saclolo, of Barangay Sto. Niño, Naval, Biliran was also declared missing since Thursday. He went to the sea to catch fish at 6 a.m. and had since failed to return.

Fuego said that about 3,838 families from 21 coastal barangays of Ormoc were temporarily sheltered at different public schools in the city while others have returned to their respective houses.

A total of 63 houses were also damaged in Ormoc City.

"Gilas" also dislocated 250 families in Naval town while 77 families in Burauen, Leyte were ordered to leave their houses as Daguitan River overflowed.

A landslide reported in Barangay Agas-agas, Mahaplag town, Leyte rendered the area impassable.

In Bobon, Northern Samar, six acacia trees were uprooted and a house damaged by a whirlwind that hit Barangay Magsaysay on Thursday morning. No one was injured, Fuego said.

In Antique, Virgilio Fernandez, officer-in-charge of the Antique Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council, said the MT Harvest Moon was anchored 300 meters from Barangay Malabor, Tibao, 76 km north of the capital town of San Jose. He said the ship's crew signaled for help from the residents of the village. *Joey Gabieta, Carla Gomez and Nestor Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau*

'Gilas' fails to stop GMA's Samar visit

By Cyrain Cabueñas
PDI Visayas Bureau

BORONGAN, Eastern Samar—Despite a menacing typhoon and rumors of rebel-disruption, the first visit to Eastern Samar of President Macapagal-Arroyo pushed through.

The inclement weather has forced her to travel by land from Tacloban City via the new South Coastal Road. The planned activities were not followed to the letter because of the long and slow convoy.

However, the President managed to pay surprised visits to some municipalities, remote barangays, and her infrastructure projects.

She launched another Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan project and a Strong Republic School Distance Learning Program in Can-avid town, 60 km north of Borongan. The beneficiaries were destitute villagers and out-of-school-youth.

Even if it was almost midnight, she held court with some 80 people who represented non-government groups, farming and fishing communities, private sector, academe, and the Church.

They raised concerns about livelihood, loans, and the environment.

The Vicar General of the Diocese of Borongan, Msgr. Lope Robredillo, speaking on behalf of Bishop Leonardo Medroso and the Borongan clergy, presented the stand of the Church against opening Samar to mining.

Representatives from the Samar Island Biodiversity Project also aired their desire to declare Samar Island as a natural park.

Everyone applauded when the President said she was positive she had signed an Executive Order on that regard.

Political Affairs adviser Gabriel Claudio assured the Samareños that the government would not take lightly any opening of mining operation without checking on its wisdom.

'Trust the gov't,' GMA asks poor Iloilo, Leyte villagers

By Jani Arnaiz
and Nestor Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

MAHILUM, Hindang, Leyte—Villagers in this barangay whose only means of transportation are horses, would have not known of President Macapagal-Arroyo's visit if not for the presence of Presidential Security Group and some military personnel who have been scouring the area since Monday.

Even Hindang Mayor Roy Jumaoas only knew about the presidential visit when an officer of the PSG came for a courtesy call.

"Thanks to the weather, I don't have to walk for two hours," said President Macapagal-Arroyo on Wednesday to open her speech, referring the long walk one has to go through before reaching the place, passing through 33 rivers and brooks.

"I am here because this is the poorest barangay in Leyte. I want you to know that the government cares for you," said the President in Cebuano.

She launched the Strong Republic's distance learning school in the area.

She brought with her a television set, a VCD player and a generator to light the 80 households in the barangay, most of whom are reported to be sympathizers of the New People's Army (NPA).

A satellite phone was also installed at the village's Area Coordinating Center (ACC) to enable local officials to have contact with the outside world. Programmed in the sat-phone is a line to Malacañang.

Twenty-eight residents of the village immediately enrolled for the distant learning to be taught by para-teachers.

The President also distributed P600,000 in checks for the construction of toilets, rain water collection and livelihood program for Barangays Mahilum, Bulacan and Anolon.

She then flew by chopper to Barangay Kapudlusan where she took her lunch at the 43rd Infantry Battalion Company A camp at around 3 p.m.

The President took off for Tacloban only after all Cabinet and regional officials were all transported from Barangay Mahilum, a good 27 km from the town proper, by the four presidential choppers.

Some regional officials had to walk for two hours to get back to the town proper.

Iloilo

The day before, the president was in Igbaras, Iloilo where she promised to bring development projects to far-flung villages along with law-enforcement to counter the threat of insurgency.

"I would like you to know that your hope will come from trusting the government and not from rebellion," the President told residents and officials of Barangay Tabiac, some 29 km south of Iloilo City.

Tabiac had been the site of clashes between Army troops and NPA rebels.

She earlier led the ceremonial inauguration of day care centers in Tabiac and neighboring villages, and a demonstration of the distance education program for dropouts and those with full-time jobs with the use of satellite feeds.

She also led the meeting of the Provincial Peace and Order Council at the Tabiac Elementary School where local, police and Army officials briefed her on the peace and order situation as well as the province's campaign against criminality.

She stressed the implementation of a comprehensive approach to solving crime and rebellion. Both the "right hand" representing the strong arm of the law and the "left hand" representing peace and development should be used to address the problems, she said. *With a report from Vicente Labro, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Farmer tags Pampanga mayor's son as killer

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The son of Mayor Tirso Lacanilao of Apalit, Pampanga, is facing charges of attempted homicide.

Before dying on July 13, the victim, Felicisimo Tolentino, prepared an affidavit identifying Roy Lacanilao as his attacker.

Tolentino, a farmer, said the mayor's son shot him once with a .45 cal. pistol midnight of June 15 at Sitio Pulong Kawayan in Barangay Sulipan, Apalit.

Tolentino, in the affidavit submitted by his brother to the National Bureau of Investigation, said he finished urinating near a waiting shed when the younger Lacanilao's green L-300 van stopped. Three of the mayor's aides were reportedly inside the car.

The mayor's son reportedly alighted from the car, poked the gun at the victim and then pulled the trigger.

The affidavit was not accompanied by an autopsy report.

His brother said the complaint for homicide will be filed on Monday.

Mayor Lacanilao said his son was being falsely accused of a crime. He said his political foes who he refused to name, were behind the "fabricated story." *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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38 Chinese fishermen jailed, fined for poaching

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The regional trial court imposed short jail terms and hefty fines for 38 Chinese fishermen convicted of poaching in Philippine waters, officials said Friday.

RTC Judge Perfecto Pe sentenced the defendants to 10 months in jail and fined them a combined $200,000 on Thursday after they pleaded guilty to poaching and using poison to stun fish, court officials said.

However, they will be freed almost immediately, having been in custody since September last year.

The fishermen and their two boats were apprehended off El Nido town on Sept. 12 and were held without bail.

Non-government groups expressed frustration at the decision. Lawyer Grizelda Mayo-Anda of the Environmental Legal Assistance Center said after the promulgation that there is a big difference between possession and actual use of noxious substance under Section 88 of the Fisheries Code, Anda explained.

Possession has a punishment of imprisonment of only six months to two years while actual use has 5-10 years imprisonment.

The Chinese were found possessing 1.8 tons of live groupers and Napoleon wrasses worth about P1.4 million, empty bottles of sodium cyanide solution and powder and homemade dynamites and pellets used for explosives.

The fish samples examined by the cyanide detection center proved positive with cyanide, a *prima facie* evidence for actual use of noxious substance.

She said the decision is unfair for Filipino fishermen languishing at the Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm because they were convicted of illegal fishing.

Adelina Benavente-Villena, legal counsel for the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development said the Chinese should not be released without paying the fine of $200,000.

Last year, 112 Chinese poachers were released without fully paying the fines.

But Zoilo Cruzat, the lawyer for the Chinese said his clients had already served their sentence and the decision was just in accordance with the law. "We did not win, we lost," he said. *Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; AFP*

Mayor probed for theft

DUMAGUETE CITY—The Negros Oriental provincial government has started an investigation of the allegation by a Korean investor that a town mayor was involved in the theft of scrap metals he bought from the defunct Basay Mining Corp. in Basay town, about 130 km south of here.

Provincial legal officer Erwin Vergara said the probe stemmed from the allegation of Noh Seok Ki, president of the Korean Steel Corp., that Basay Mayor Beda Canamaque, allegedly in connivance with the local police, was involved in the theft of the scrap metals from the chattels of the mining firm that he bought for P11 million in 2001.

The mining firm was a subsidiary of the defunct Construction Development Corporation of the Philippines (CDCP).

Canamaque, through his lawyer Eduardo Sedillo, denied the Korean's allegation. Sedillo claimed that his client was the one in fact being defrauded by the Korean businessman of almost P700,000.

Quoting the mayor, Sedillo said Noh has not paid Canamaque P688,727 for hauling, overseeing, loading and cutting of the scrap metals. *Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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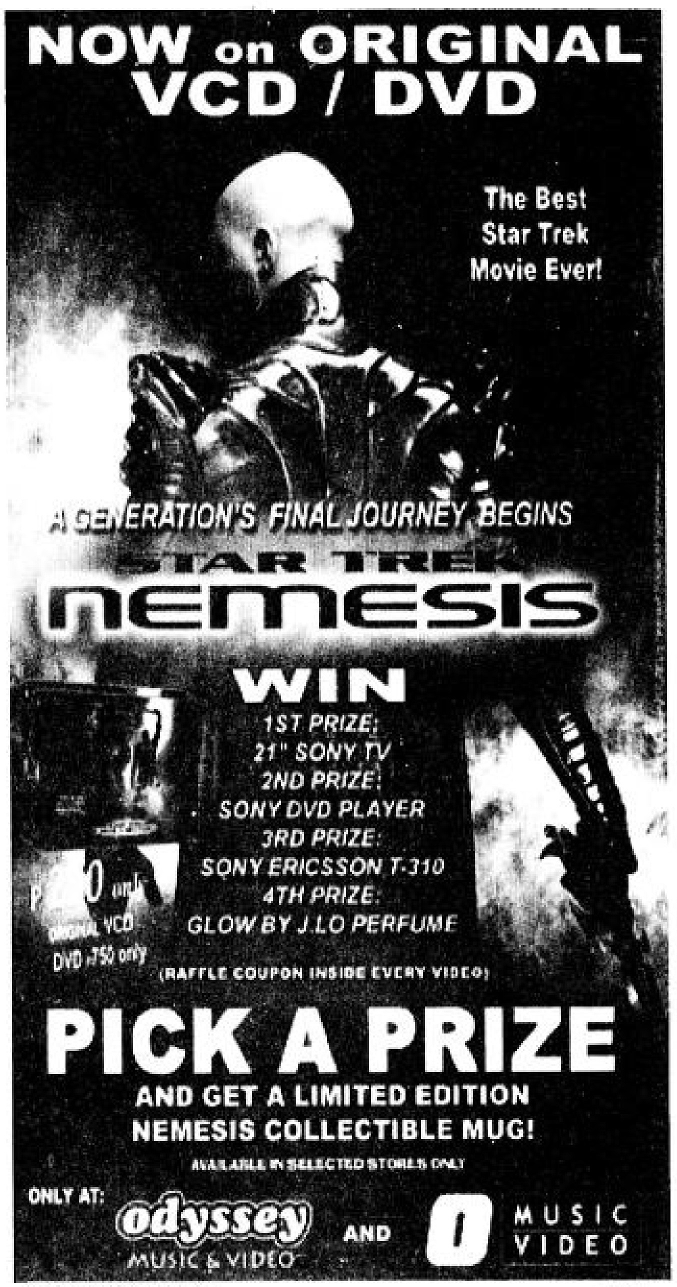
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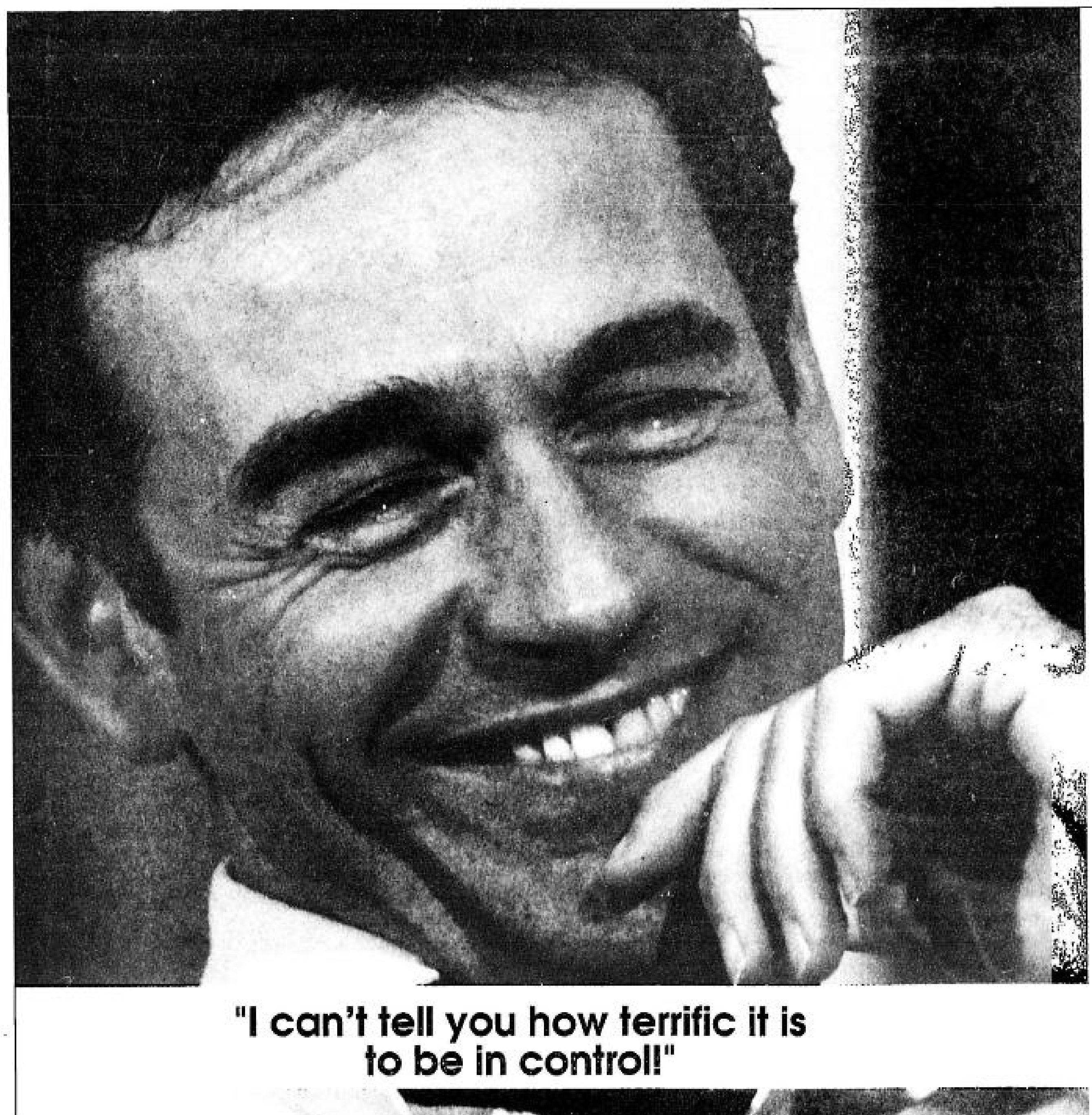

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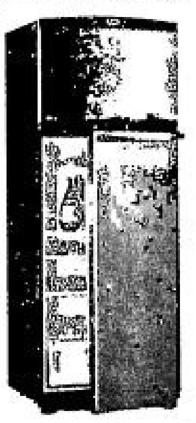

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INQUIRER Visayas

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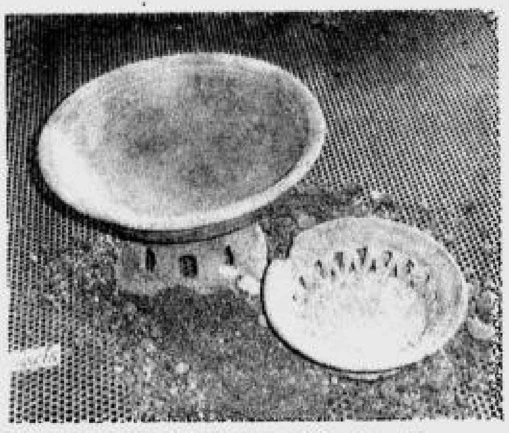
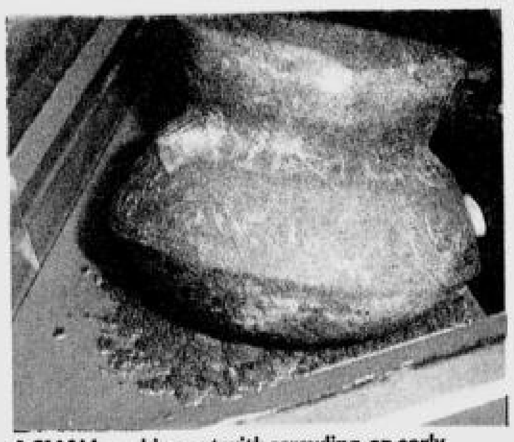
The riddle of the Gigantes pottery



PRESENTATION or offertory dishes found in ancient burial sites at Islas de Gigantes.



A SMALL cooking pot with scrawling, an early evidence of writing, found at ancient gravesites at Islas de Gigantes.

ANCIENT clay pots and ritual vessels unearthed from Islas de Gigantes.

MA. DIOSA LABISTE

KENDI or spouted vessels, said to have come from mainland Southeast Asia.

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
Iloilo City

CERAMIC experts and archeologists have yet to crack the mystery of the ancient pottery unearthed on the Islas de Gigantes off the northern Iloilo town of Carles, 147 km from Iloilo City.

Thousands of jars, pots, water vessels and footed dishes have already been found and sold to private collectors since the digging frenzy swept the islands in 1997, but the ancient earthenware continue to puzzle experts as to their origin and function.

Some experts say Gigantes was an ancient burial site; others say it was a settlement of fishers and potters. The local residents lean toward the legend that Gigantes was enchanted and once inhabited by people of extraordinary size, thus the name Islas de Gigantes or "Islands of Giants."

The mystery of the Gigantes pottery was discussed in a lecture on excavated pottery at the Museo Iloilo on June 21, a day after the opening of the exhibit on ancient pottery taken from private collections in the city and the launching of the "Pang-alay: Ritual Pottery in Ancient Philippines." The book was edited by Cynthia Ongpin Valdes, who is an active member and former president of the Oriental Ceramic Society of the Philippines.

From the shallow diggings in the South and North Gigantes emerged thousands of pottery associated with burial rites.

There were huge clay jars with round bottoms, that were believed to be used for primary burial. They are also known as presentation or footed dishes that local pot hunters call "fruit trays." The clay-footed dishes are believed to contain food or other special offerings from people who worship or honor their dead, said Valdes.

Ritual functions

Valdes said the vessels might have been pots and ordinary objects used in daily life but imbued with a ritual function in pre-Christian religion.

They could be *"pabaon"* or objects buried with the deceased, or *"pang-alay"* (offertory vessels). Whatever their function, the vessels were intended to ease the journey of the departed to the spirit world.

Presentation dishes are often found in burial sites in the Philippines, and each place has its own unique design.

Edwin Bautista, a banker-turned-ceramic collector, said those found at Gigantes have either deep or shallow bowls with narrow rectangles and triangles. The figures are arranged in repeating patterns that might have been cut with sharp tools. The surfaces around the cutouts were filled with straight or wavy incised lines.

Bautista, who also served as president of the Oriental Ceramic Society, wrote a chapter on the enigma of the Gigantes pottery in "Pang-alay" and gave a lecture at the Museo Iloilo on June 21.

The distinct design of the ritual vessels made collectors and archeologists ponder over their age and links to a similarly designed presentation dish that was classified by a noted archeologist, Otley Beyer, as "Novaliches Pottery" because it was found in Novaliches-Marilao area in 1926.

Beyer's dish has a tall and stemmed foot covered with triangular cutouts and comb-incised decorations. The pottery was rare and only one other specimen was ever published, that which was reported by Carl Guthe to have been found in Barrio Lantangan in South Gigantes in 1923.

Beyer's dish was lost during World War II, while Guthe's dish is among his collections at the University of Michigan in the United States.

Could it be, Bautista asked, that the Novaliches and the Gigantes pottery shared the same origin and even came from the islands? Should the Novaliches pottery complex be renamed the Gigantes pottery complex?

Another speaker at the Museo Iloilo, Dr. Eusebio Dizon, curator of the National Museum's archeology division and head of its underwater archeology section, said multidisciplinary studies of the past based on the Gigantes find should be pursued.

He challenged scholars in Iloilo to do solid writing and research on the pottery and the government to fund the archeological studies.

Ancient writing

Among the fascinating aspects of the Gigantes pottery is the presence of a small cooking pot with inscriptions near the mouth. The scrawling could be an evidence of ancient writing, Dizon said.

Found along the burial jars and footed dishes at the ancient gravesites in Gigantes were rusted metal weapons, like spears, axes, arrow points, spiral bands and metals bracelets.

Also retrieved were multicolored glass beads, the type commonly found in gravesites dating back to the Developed to Late Metal Age in the Philippines (1 AD to 900 AD). This kind of beads was also retrieved in ancient archeological sites all over Southeast Asia, said Bautista. Some scholars call them "trade wind beads" or "Indo-Pacific beads."

Half-moon, rounded and rectangular clay pendants were also found, along with clay net sinkers.

Bautista said the objects indicated that the deceased were fishers or living near the sea. Large shells that were also excavated suggest that the island was not just a burial ground but also a community settlement.

The discovery of spouted unglazed vessels along with the local pottery sparked more interests on the Gigantes pottery. The spouted vessels are beige, red or orange in color or have red bands. Others have stamped designs of elephants, conch shells and sitting lions.

Bautista wrote that the presence of the spouted vessels, known as "*kendi*," posed "an enigma."

His research on the origin of *kendi* led him to say that they came from the Thai Peninsula and dated possibly earlier than the 10th century, from the Thai Dvaravati culture between the 7th century and the 9th century AD.

"The clay and potting were similar to those found in unglazed fine paste ceramics of the Thai Peninsula. They also had a distinct Khmer feel," Bautista wrote.

With the discovery of Thai pottery in Gigantes, changes should be made in the country's history, he said.

He said it was possible that the earliest ceramics brought to the Philippines came from mainland Southeast Asia rather than from China. Chinese pottery and beads reached the Philippines in the 10th century.

But at the end of their lectures, Bautista, Valdes and Dizon recommended further research.

In the meantime, the puzzle remains unsolved.

'Muro-ami' arrests spotlight rehab failures

By Juan L. Mercado
Cebu City

JOEGIE Baldado, 17, found himself trapped. On one hand was the "devil" of slave labor on an illegal *muro-ami* fishing boat. "The deep blue sea" of Palawan was on the other.

He leaped overboard. So did two other divers. The three made it to shore.

That was in November 1999. Since then, Baldado charged the Cebu-based ABS Fishing & Development Corp. with child abuse.

Last week, Judge Nelia Yap Fernandez of the Palawan regional trial court ordered three ABS officials arrested for allegedly fracturing the law (Republic Act No. 7610), which bans child labor.

The accused belong to the politically connected Abines family of Cebu: ex-provincial board member Apolonio, former congressman Crisologo, and their sister, Encarnacion Abines-Go.

Earlier, the Department of Justice spiked a provincial prosecutor's ruling that shrugged off Baldado's complaint: that 400 persons were recruited by ABS for *muro-ami* fishing. Unpaid except for skimpy advances, they'd be shoved below deck when the occasional Coast Guard patrol boat sailed by.

ABS no longer uses children as *muro-ami* divers, treasurer Go claims. The firm now operates the new *pa-aling* method. ABS also contracts for hands to operate its boats.

Banned in 1989, *muro-ami* has divers (usually under 15 years of age) drop noisy scare lines—and drive fish toward nets. It's a "poverty-generating technology" anchored on "credit bondage" of underage divers, an earlier United Nations study notes. Just 50 *muro-ami* divers could damage 17 square meters per hectare of vital coral reef.

The arrests revived interest in an International Labor Organization study on why *muro-ami* been allowed to go on.

Slapstick dev't

"Slapstick Development and Irony Among Veteran Muro Ami Fisherfolk of Southern Cebu" provides part of the answer. San Carlos University published the study in its quarterly: Culture & Society.

Professors Harold Olofson and Bernie Canizares, and Farah de Jose studied how 29 associations, with 154 *muro-ami* families in "Abines Country," fared under a national program called "LEADS" (Livelihood Enhancement for Agricultural Development).

"Meant to establish livelihoods to replace *muro-ami* expeditions, (LEADS) instead drove many of the fisherfolk and their sons into a 'new' but still environmentally destructive brand of *muro-ami*," the study found.

Alternative projects that LEADS funded ranged from soap making, goat and pig raising, fish shelters, cattle breeding and seaweed farming to nearshore technologies. Most failed. Why?

The projects were "piecemeal, disconnected, aimless philosophically unguided injection of cash into the countryside," the report points. Cooperatives were hurriedly organized. Government officials imposed projects. Participation of fisherfolk was curbed.

"Even environmental realities of southern Cebu, like *habagat* winds and drought were ignored."

"Principles of rural development, already known for many years, seem to have been systematically ignored," Olofson and his colleagues pointed out. "Did they proceed knowing full well the likelihood of failure?"

There were successful projects, of course. In Oslob, a soap-making project increased incomes. So did pig raising in Samboan where the municipal agriculture officer "stuck his neck out" to protest dictation.

The word "corruption" does not appear in the USC report. But it documents instances.

Money for a fish shelter disappeared, only to reappear for cattle breeding. That's "a strange thing to offer life-long fisherfolk" in an area short of fodder.

An official insisted on pig raising, disguising his consultancy with a large-scale piggery farm. In Boljoon, the project chair spent P5,000 to entertain visiting officials.

Oslob's mayor, an Abines, secured a P150,000-loan supposedly to help 21 *muro-ami* youths (some below 14). "The nominal chair was the mayor's houseboy," the study found.

"Titi Emin (Abines) knows and decides all association activities," including setting up a fish net and corrals during the *habagat*. Moonson waves promptly flattened the corrals.

Misleading

"Amortization is not met due to strong waves, cages are always destroyed, fish catch is low," the mayor reported.

This was "misleading," the study countered. "The accurate report should read: *Muro-ami* mayor's patronage torpedoed youth project. Fishing labor from this town likely to be abundant."

Interest charged by LEADS proved more than that imposed by banks. It took five months to process loans. "The glimmer of hope died in our hearts," one *muro-ami* family said.

The agriculture department wouldn't even answer inquiries from fisherfolk. Its three-day seminars were inadequate. "Whatever happened to extension" of technical support? the study asks.

"The only thing that holds us together is the loan we have to repay," the members grumbled.

The membership lists crumbled. So did savings for investment and repayment. Only one association reported an increase of members; it dwindled in others. One scraped up P5,000 to reinvest.

Partial repayments signaled coming defaults by the rest.

"Members hopelessly came to see their activities simply as an exercise on learning how to repay a loan," the study added.

"My members are better off without the project," a leader explains. "Left with debt, we must prioritize repayment below our immediate needs and the costs of sending our children to school. Can we be sent to prison if we fail to repay our loans?"

Since then, some members turned to coastal fishing. Desperately poor, others reenlisted for *muro-ami* fishing trips.

Many are "lifelong debt holders, trapped in bondage to the Abines recruiting organization," the USC study noted. "As honorable people, they felt honor-bound to make good on their repayments ... " The recruiting company was poised to take advantage of this.

Inept government's well-intentioned program dealt "slapstick blows to *muro-ami* associational bodies ... A development disaster had been visited on the land," the report adds.

More Joegie Baldados are poised to leap overboard.

The underside of Sto. Niño's odyssey

VINTAGE VIEW

Rolando O. Borrinaga

HISTORY is often told from the viewpoint of the dominant class. And domineering Tacloban City remains mired with this burden as it celebrates the 114th edition of its June 30 fiesta in honor of the Sto. Niño.

Tacloban's version of the odyssey of its Sto. Niño image has been told through generations. Folklore has it that the original fiesta of Kankabatok was celebrated on the third Sunday of January, the regular feast day of the Child Jesus. Kankabatok was the name of Tacloban when it was still a barrio of Basey town across the San Juanico Strait.

However, a series of extraordinary events altered this tradition.

In 1888, plans were afoot for an elaborate fiesta in 1889. As part of the preparations, the image of the Sto. Niño was brought to Manila for some retouching and change of vestments. Unfortunately, the boat carrying the image back to Tacloban caught fire at sea between Mindoro and Romblon.

To save the ship, the crew threw out some cargoes, including the crate containing the image. Without the image, the fiesta for 1889 was not celebrated as scheduled.

Luckily, the crate was retrieved by local fishermen off Mindoro and eventually shipped to Tacloban. Its arrival on June 30, 1889 was met with much jubilation and was claimed to have miraculously controlled a raging cholera epidemic there.

Thereafter, the people of Tacloban reset for June 30 the date for them to pay homage to the Sto. Niño.

Unfortunately, there is a shady underside of the folklore, one that has yet to be fully told. We refer to an obvious act of frontal thievery of a religious icon away from its rightful owners.

The late Justice Norberto Romualdez's "Sto. Niño han Tacloban" or Imelda Romualdez-Marcos' "Sto. Niño de Leyte" does not belong to both places. The image originally belongs to the Buscada Church, at the present entrance to the poblacion of Basey, Samar.

To the uninitiated, the Buscada Church is a long-neglected and crumbling coral stone structure with a Jesuit-inspired facade, catacombs for walls, and a cemetery for its yard. It is presumably older than the present church of Basey, a mammoth structure with a Franciscan-inspired facade that overlooks the town from the top of a hill. (The Franciscans replaced the expelled Jesuits in Samar in 1768.)

Tacloban's folklore suggests that the parishioners of Buscada meekly gave up their religious icon in exchange for a smaller one.

We seriously doubt this patronizing claim, which looks like a barefaced yarn. Indeed, we suspect that a lot of animosities beclouded the transfer of Buscada's image to Tacloban.

There is a documented parallel somewhere.

Dr. Bruce Cruikshank, in his doctoral dissertation on Samar, wrote about the 1882 Dapdap Incident. That event was a civil unrest (that required military intervention) associated with the decision of a Franciscan priest to transfer the *poblacion* and church altar from Dapdap (the Jesuits' old church site) to Tarangnan in Samar.

The same Franciscan policy was probably also enforced on Buscada in favor of Tacloban. And since Basey's *poblacion* was already in an ideal location, it was the Jesuit-favored Sto. Niño image that had to be banished in favor of the Fransciscans' San Miguel de Arcanghel as the town's patron saint. And this could have caused unrest among the Baseynons, similar to what happened in Dapdap.

We doubt that Tacloban's Sto. Niño image will ever be returned to the Buscada Church. After all, powerful takers do not run out of excuses to hold on to their sacred loot.

Like the thieves of the Bells of Balangiga across the Pacific Ocean, or of the Marcos loot closer to home.

Davide lectures PMA on civilian supremacy

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—What lessons should Philippine Military Academy cadets absorb from Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., the man who investigated the series of coup attempts launched by PMA graduates in 1989?

One often-quoted golden rule Davide explored here last week is "military obedience to civilian authority," which the chief justice described as "the highest military virtue" because obedience is "one upon which all the others depend."

Davide also reminded the cadets to trust the 1987 Constitution because it is the only document that makes this measure of obedience "explicit."

He detailed his "personal moral compass" to first class and second class cadets on July 13 in the first of PMA's lecture series for the newly created PMA Center for Character Development (CCD). The Inquirer obtained a copy of his lecture only on Friday.

PMA grads for president

Davide's presentation came at a time when the developing roster of presidential candidates for the 2004 elections reveals a number of influential PMA graduates.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson was the first PMA graduate to publicly declare his intention to run for president. Sen. Gregorio Honasan, the subject of Davide's investigation when he was appointed chair of a fact-finding commission by former President Corazon Aquino, declared his own candidacy last week. Both Lacson and Honasan belong to PMA Class 1971.

Even Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, a member of PMA Class 1966, was once listed among possible presidential candidates.

Reyes is now rumored to be seeking a Senate seat next year.

'Adventurism'

Davide made no references to the coming elections. But he dwelt on the military's history of "adventurism" following martial law which, he suggested, had dictated the course of domestic politics in subsequent years after the 1986 Edsa Revolution.

"Most of you may have been too young in 1989 to understand how the attempted coup took a terrible toll on a country still recovering from over a decade of misrule. That exercise in military adventurism resulted (in) 99 deaths and 570 wounded in the fighting," Davide said.

"There were combined financial losses estimated between P800 million and P1 billion, and an incalculable loss of confidence and international prestige."

"Clearly, something was off-kilter in the relations between the military, or at least the part of it, which attempted the coup, and the civilian government it sought to overthrow," he said.

The Davide Commission heard testimonies and read the sworn statements of about 400 witnesses, many of them military officers and personnel.

Military professionalism

Davide said this led to a commission report that had defined military professionalism using four new criteria. He said the military officer must adhere to a measure of specialization, which, in the soldier's case, involved the "management of violence."

Benefits for soldiers still pending in House

By Cynthia Balana

UNDER House Bill No. 5734 sponsored by Rep. Kim Bernardo-Lokin of the party-list group Citizens Battle against Corruption, additional benefits would only be extended to soldiers on combat duty. In addition to their existing pay and benefits, the measure seeks to entitle them to the following benefits:

- A 15-percent discount from restaurants, wet markets, supermarkets and rice dealerships anywhere in the country, provided that private establishments may claim the cost as tax credit.
- A 20-percent discount on all purchases and admission fees in amusement and entertainment centers, such as but not limited to theaters, concert halls, carnivals and entertainment bars, provided that these establishments may claim the cost as tax credit.
- A 15-percent discount on economy and business passenger class air transportation fees charged by private airlines, 25 percent on all economy, special economy and tourist passenger classes or their equivalent in sea transportation fees charged by private shipping lines, and 50 percent on all land transport passenger fees charged by bus and taxi companies.
- A 15-percent discount on all medicines purchased in private drugstores, except for the purchase of medical equipment such as stethoscopes, heart rate monitors and the like. Such discounts can only be availed by presenting a doctor's prescription.

Lokin said the benefits under this proposed act do not require any additional appropriation from the Department of Budget and Management.

Gringo advising young, griping officers

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had been one of the officers approached by the disgruntled junior officers.

The source was referring to the pamphlet distributed by Honasan to his supporters when he announced last week he was running for president in 2004.

The senator said if this classifies him as an adviser to these young officers, he said he doesn't mind.

AFP spokesperson and AFP Vice Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia debunks reports about restless officers hatching destabilization plots. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Valid complaints

Honasan said the complaints raised by the group were "valid" and should be addressed.

He also expressed the belief that these officers intend to have their grievances heard and be attended to.

"I pray that they adhere to the peaceful process, that's my prayer," Honasan said. He said that the peaceful and legal route should be the "preferred mode."

Honasan admitted to the Inquirer last night that he has been meeting with a lot of military officers, "young or old" and "junior or senior" to "propagate " and seek their inputs to his National Recovery Program.

Honasan said some of his staff have sought inputs from some of the officers in refining the NRP.

The NRP, which seeks to address the problems plaguing the country—peace and order, economy, poverty, corruption and population—is the program that Honasan is presenting to the people and the united opposition in his bid for the presidency.

Honasan said that it was likely that in the course of these meetings with these military officers, he could have met with the group of griping young military officers.

Reyes like unit commander

Asked about the officers' complaint against Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes' penchant to micromanage the military, he said that he had heard this complaint from the officers before. He said some senior officers once told him that the "only one operating unit in the Armed Forces is the Department of National Defense."

"(Reyes) should spend more time coordinating with both Houses of Congress than behaving like a unit commander," Honasan said.

Honasan said he has been going around the country for some time now not to campaign for his presidential bid, but to push the NRP.

Another group, who call themselves Alliance for National Transformation (ANT), has reportedly linked up with the young officers, raising speculation that "private interests" were "riding on the legitimate grievances" aired by the griping captains.

The ANT is composed of retired military officers, including some from PMA Class 1958.

Sack Reyes

In the Senate, former Armed Forces chief of staff, opposition Sen. Rodolfo Biazon confirmed that he had been hearing "rumors" that some young officers about the restlessness of the last two weeks.

Biazon urged President Macapagal to address the "old" but "valid" grievances of the young military officers by, among other things, sacking Defense Secretary Reyes for what he said was the latter's penchant for "micro-managing" the military.

"He (Reyes) has been micromanaging the military for a long time," the senator said, citing his sources in Camp Aguinaldo and soldiers and officers in the aftermath of the clash between the military and the Abu Sayyaf in Lamitan, Basilan, in June 2001.

Remember RAM

He sternly reminded the public that the RAM (Reform the Armed Forces Movement), which was headed by Honasan, had similar grievances against the military leadership before it figured in major coup attempts against the government.

Among the issues being raised now by the young officers are low pay, incentives, lack of housing, corruption in the armed forces and the micro-management of the military by Reyes.

"By addressing the issues ... you could nip in the bud any movement that may parallel the movement of the RAM in 1984 and 1985," Biazon said in a news conference.

But Biazon said he doesn't consider the group of officers a "threat to national security."

For one, the group doesn't have a rallying figure and a civilian component to "galvanize" any action, he said. Likewise, he said the 2004 elections is 10 months away and is a "constitutional process that could effect change."

At worst, their gripes may affect the morale of the troops and field commanders, Biazon said.

He said he felt that the intention of the group was to air their grievances against the military rather than to stir up destabilization moves.

As for the young officers' gripes against the continued occupation by retired officers of military housing units, Biazon sought the eviction of these retirees as this could address "partially" the problem of lack of housing for those in the active service.

Bills sleeping in Senate

To address the low pay and incentives of the military, Biazon called for the passage of two joint resolutions of Congress that he filed in 2001.

Biazon's Senate Resolution No. 2 calls for the increase from P60 to P100 of the daily subsistence allowance for all officers, personnel and Moro National Liberation Front integrees of the AFP and the Philippine National Police, among other people.

On the other hand, Senate Resolution No. 7 seeks an increase in combat duty pay through a 25-percent increase of the base pay of AFP personnel.

Biazon lamented though that his two resolutions have been "sleeping the sleep of Rip Van Winkle."

Forgetting the soldiers

In the House of Representatives, party-list Rep. Kim Bernardo-Lokin of the Citizens' Battle Against Corruption confirmed the growing disenchantment of junior officers who have been meeting with her on her proposed law on soldiers.

Lokin is the author of House Bill No. 5734 which seeks to give additional benefits to members of the AFP assigned in combat areas through a "Saludo sa Sundalo" program. The bill is still pending with the House committee on national defense.

"I believe that the politicization of the appointment and promotion process of top military officers has contributed to the demoralization among junior officers and this has to be addressed immediately," Lokin said.

"The President has declared war on practically everything that moves in this country, yet in establishing a strong republic, she forgot all about the soldiers," she stressed.

Lokin described the junior officers in the Army and Marines whom she talked to as "highly demoralized."

Lokin urged her colleagues in the House to speed up the "Saludo sa Sundalo" bill **(for its provisions, see story on this page)** to address the glaring discrepancy in the pay of junior officers from the three branches of the AFP—Army, Navy and Air Force.

Workers in uniform

In a statement, Partido ng Manggagawa Rep. Renato Magtubo said that "soldiers are workers in uniform."

"We face the same dilemma and are compelled to collective struggle," Magtubo said.

To firm up the alliance between militant workers and restive military officers, Magtubo urged soldiers to send their representatives to the people's protest on July 28 and the Workers' State of the Nation the next day.

Along with other labor groups, the Partido ng Manggagawa will participate in a huge rally for its own Sona version.

The rally will be staged after President Macapagal delivers her address at the Batasan complex.

For Magtubo, there is a "commonality" of interest between workers and soldiers such as low wages, lack of decent housing and discrimination in pay.

"We have the same gripes against a rotten system which favors the elite minority ... Organized labor calls on the Macapagal administration to redress the common grievances of the restive officers and working class," he said.

"Our soldiers must realize that they must unite with the workers and the poor to strengthen our bargaining leverage to ensure the attainment of our demands," he added.

But for the Kilusang Mayo Uno, Ms Macapagal's move to appease the military must be broadened to include other government employees.

The KMU's vice president Lito Ustarez pointed out in a statement that the military already gets the lion's share of government funds.

"What other privileges and incentives does the military want? They're already on top of Macapagal's priorities," he added. *With a report from Martin Marfil*

GMA orders AFP . . .

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that a group of Army and Marine captains had been meeting over the past two weeks to air complaints and that they had been under surveillance by the Palace. Some of the young officers had been picked up for questioning, according to Inquirer sources.

Malacañang has moved to quell the young officers' restiveness, with the President meeting a number of senior officers who had been approached by the junior officers.

The report did not mention any coup rumors.

But complaints about salaries, corruption among senior officers and blocked promotions characterized the military organization in the coup-prone 1980s, when the Aquino administration put down seven bloody coup attempts.

ANGELO REYES, defense secretary: Soldiers have legitimate concerns but they are being addressed vigorously.
AFP FILE PHOTO

Housing

Reyes said that the soldiers' housing problem was being addressed, citing the recent launch of an off-base housing project in the 20-hectare Camp Riego de Dios in Tanza, Cavite.

He said there were three other housing projects in Camp Servillano Aquino in Tarlac, Camp Evangelista in Cagayan de Oro, and the AFP Officers Village in Taguig.

A total of 468 hectares in 11 more military camps have been allocated for housing some 35,000 military personnel, he added.

But the president of PMA Class '94—which calls itself Bantay-Lahi (Guardians of Freedom)—yesterday denied that there was any grumbling among members of the class.

"The problems cited in the [Inquirer] article are not new issues. The problems were there even before we entered the military service," Capt. Noel Tolentino said in a telephone interview with defense reporters.

Tolentino said there was no reason to complain as the young officers were satisfied with the efforts being exerted by the AFP general headquarters to correct these problems.

He said that some members of the class did meet during a send-off party for an officer leaving for the United States. But he said they discussed only "class concerns" and not matters concerning their work.

He also denied speculations that the young officers were plotting to seize power.

"We have been witness to such coup attempts. No small group can change the government. That's the concerted effort of every Filipino," he said.

"We'll abide by the Constitution and support the President. We'll live up to our class name—guardians of freedom," he added.

Case in Supreme Court

As for the retired officers' continuing to enjoy military housing at the 40-hectare Jusmag in Fort Bonifacio, Garcia said the privilege was actually being extended only to officers in the active service.

He said the military could not comment on the issue because of a case filed by the Bases Conversion Development Authority seeking the cancellation of fake land titles issued to the Southside Homeowners Association. The case was in the Supreme Court and "we can't intrude into that," he said.

Supreme Court denies appeal by sick inmate to stay home

From page A1

said in an en banc resolution last Tuesday, could no longer be released on his own recognizance as he had requested because his trial had already ended and he had already been convicted of murder, a capital offense.

The high court also agreed with the solicitor general, who opposed Lumanog's petition, that the facilities of the Muntinlupa prison hospital were enough to take care of Lumanog's needs.

Lumanog's lawyer, Soliman Santos, said he will appeal the SC decision.

He said his client badly needs to be transferred to an isolated location to avoid infection and complications that might result from his kidney transplant.

As a kidney transplantee, Lumanog, 46, has to take medications that lower his immunity so his body will not reject the kidney donated by his wife, Marilou. This means he would be vulnerable to any type of infection. Thus, he cannot stay in crowded places and needs to live in a clean environment.

Abadia killing

Santos said Lumanog is still in the National Kidney Transplant Institute, where he had to undergo a second operation after contracting a urinary tract infection.

Lumanog is one of the Abadilla 5, the five men who are facing the death penalty for the killing in 1996 of ex-Col. Rolando Abadilla. On Aug. 11, 1999, a Quezon City regional trial court had sentenced to death Lumanog and his alleged accomplices Augusto Santos, Cesar Fortuna, Rameses de Jesus and Joel De Jesus.

The convicts, however, said the police tortured them into admitting the crime. The death penalty case is now on automatic review before the Supreme Court.

Last May 5, Lumanog filed a "very urgent motion for home stay on recognizance" after he underwent a critical kidney transplant operation in April at the NKTI.

Lumanog, who had end-stage kidney disease, has been staying at the NKTI since August 2002 with the approval of the Supreme Court. He underwent dialysis regularly but needed a transplant to survive.

It took a while before Lumanog could undergo surgery because his family could not afford the cost of the operation. After the Inquirer published a report last December about his plight and that of his co-defendants in the murder case, Lumanog received offers of help from many people, including First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo who shouldered the cost of his transplant surgery.

Custodians

In his petition for home stay on recognizance, Lumanog listed the following as those who would be responsible while he is outside prison: news anchor Angelo Castro and June Keithley Castro, retired Brig. Gen. Federico Ruiz, and Secretary Eduardo Ermita, the presidential adviser for the peace process.

But the SC agreed with the solicitor general's comment on Lumanog's petition that Lumanog could not avail himself of home stay because that would be tantamount to granting him bail, which is not allowed for those convicted of capital offenses.

"Recognizance is an obligation on record, entered into before some court of magistrate...with the condition to do some particular act, the most usual condition in criminal cases being the appearance of the accused for trial," the solicitor general had said in its comment.

Prison hospital adequate

"Clearly, this form of bail is applicable only when the case is in its trial stage," he added.

He also noted that Lumanog's doctors did not suggest that the convict be restricted or confined outside the NBP.

"The NBP hospital is adequately equipped to meet the requirements needed by the appellant to recover," the Solgen said.

He added that returning Lumanog to the NBP was "not a gross irreversible violation of his fundamental constitutional and human rights to life and due process."

"It is the mandate of the law that if an accused is convicted of a capital offense, he loses his right to bail," he said.

In its resolution, the SC also ordered the lawyers of the Abadilla 5 to file their briefs in relation to the automatic review of the death penalty case.

It also ordered Joel de Jesus to decide whether to hire his own lawyer or have the SC appoint one for him.

Plan to attack Palace bared

A MORO separatist guerrilla and an Egyptian man plotted to bomb Malacañang and other key targets before they were captured in May, according to a police interrogation record seen by The Associated Press.

Saifulla Yunos, also known as Muklis Yunos, a former commander of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, said they discussed attacks with explosives left over from a string of bombings that killed 22 people in Manila in 2000, the debriefing record said.

Both men were arrested, and Yunos pleaded guilty last week to plotting the near-simultaneous bombings.

Yunos said the Egyptian offered to help him and his family resettle in a foreign country, possibly Saudi Arabia, to elude police, according to his debriefing.

In exchange, the Egyptian allegedly asked him to make bombs for possible attacks in Manila, including a truck bomb to be used on Malacañang, Yunos told his interrogators. Another possible target was a sprawling oil depot nearby, he said.

"One suggestion ... was a suicide attack on Malacañang Palace," Yunos was quoted as saying.

A police intelligence official involved in interrogating Yunos said the planned attacks seemed tentative. Police have failed to link the Egyptian, who remains in police custody, with any terrorist group and were working to deport him for immigration violations, the official said.

Yunos said he took steps to recover explosive materials, including at least 43 kilograms of TNT and detonating cords, that were not used in the 2000 bombings.

During the planning for the 2000 attacks, Yunos said he and his companions considered attacking the Palace, the nearby oil depot complex, and another oil depot at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport but decided on the other targets, a separate police report said.

Riduan Isamuddin, an Indonesian leader of the extremist group Jemaah Islamiya (JI), was determined to bomb the US and Israeli embassies but found their security too tight after inspecting the targets, according to the police report.

It was not clear why Malacañang and the oil depot were dropped as targets.

Many believe that Isamuddin, also known as Hambali, is Osama bin Laden's point man in Asia. Yunos said he met Hambali during combat training in Afghanistan in the 1980s.

Hambali left before the bombings in Manila, allowing Yunos and Fathur Roman al-Ghozi, a suspected JI bomb expert from Indonesia, to choose the targets, Yunos said.

Al-Ghozi, captured in Manila early last year, was to be arraigned on Monday but escaped early this week from detention at Camp Crame. Hambali remains at large.

The JI reportedly wants to create a Southeast Asian Islamic state. It has been blamed for attacks in Indonesia, including last year's Oct. 12 bombings that killed 202 people on the resort island of Bali.

Ebdane still chief but resign calls mount

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among our allies."

"One immediate effect has been the return of negative travel advisories on the Philippines, which have adverse impact on business-related travel as well as tourism in the country," the MBC said in a statement.

The President said her administration was "not giving any false assurances to our people or to the international community."

"But we assure [you] that the government will leave no stone unturned in the manhunt and investigation of the circumstances that led to the escape," she said, adding:

"Every piece of information and every small detail that crops up in the probe will be scrutinized. We will follow the leads both to Al-Ghozi [and] his cohorts and the possible collusion within the police organization. We're not making excuses, and we urge the people to act on the side of caution and vigilance. The threat of terrorism is ever present and must be met collectively."

Earlier this week, Ms Macapagal formed an independent commission to investigate the escape of the Indonesian bomber and to submit its recommendations in 30 days.

So far, only Sedfrey Ordoñez, a former justice secretary and envoy, and Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong have been named to the body as chair and member, respectively.

Help welcome

The President welcomed the help of the United States and other countries in the hunt for Al-Ghozi.

"We have played a very strong role in the global fight against terrorism and the capture of Al-Ghozi was part of that commitment," she said in a statement. "We are equally committed to bring him back to justice and to work with other nations, including the United States, to stop terrorism in whatever form and wherever it may be."

The President said she understood the position of the US and other countries to issue travel advisories to their citizens. "We ourselves are concerned over the safety of their nationals as well as that of our own," she said.

Her spokesperson Ignacio Bunye could not say if she had already sought US help in the recapture of Al-Ghozi.

As though desperate to bring Al-Ghozi back, the President softened on the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and welcomed its offer to join the hunt.

"This will hopefully limit the roaming ground of Al-Ghozi and his cohorts in Mindanao. We hold the MILF to its word that it will help in the interdiction of terrorists, and I am looking forward to Al-Ghozi as a primary test case."

Ms Macapagal, who returned yesterday to Manila from a three-day caravan to the Visayas, said the peace process with the MILF had a large stake in the recapture of Al-Ghozi.

"Step by step, we are overcoming the obstacles to the resumption of peace talks with the MILF under conditions of stability on the ground," she said.

Immediate action

Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. (Lakas, Surigao del Sur), chair of the House defense committee, said Ebdane's continued service would further damage the country's image before the international community.

According to Pichay, "immediate and decisive action by Malacañang is required to show the international community and our people that we mean business."

"Otherwise, all the gains of the President from her stance against international terrorism will be for naught," he said. "Nothing less than the sacking of top PNP officials would help restore the confidence of the people and the international community in the integrity of the country's system of justice and law enforcement."

Pichay said Ebdane was a professional officer and had "nothing at all to do" with the Al-Ghozi escape.

"But under the principle of command responsibility, he must bear the brunt of his organization's terrible failure," Pichay said.

However, Rep. Augusto Syjuco (Lakas, Iloilo) said Ebdane should be allowed to "finish his job"—to recapture Al-Ghozi.

Syjuco said punishment must be imposed only on the police officers and men in charge of securing the Indonesian.

He also said reforms were needed, particularly in the process of ridding the PNP of "undesirable persons."

In a statement, Rep. Apolinario Lozada (Lakas, Negros Occidental) called for an inquiry into claims that PNP Deputy Director General Virtus Gil was behind the Al-Ghozi escape.

Lozada challenged Gil to submit to a lie detector test, saying that if he were innocent of the charge, he had nothing to be afraid of.

No need for probe

The Senate is not inclined to join the flurry of investigations into the Al-Ghozi escape, according to Senate President Franklin Drilon and Sen. Rodolfo Biazon.

At a press conference, Biazon said he believed that the commission headed by Ordoñez would do the job.

"I support the President's creation of an independent [body]," he said. "I will not propose a congressional inquiry at this point. I think we should give the President the prerogative to do what she has to do within her powers."

Biazon called on his fellow lawmakers to refrain from muddling the ongoing investigations, "unless there are manifestations that the President is failing to do what she has to do."

Drilon said Ebdane should be allowed to stay on to solve the mystery surrounding the escape.

He said any congressional probe should focus more on the state of the country's prison system.

"The investigation should include a reexamination of the entire prison system in the Philippines in view of the frequency of escapes from our prison cells in Camp Crame and throughout the country," he said.

Drilon said he would file a bill seeking to raise the penalties for prison guards found guilty of infidelity in the custody of prisoners.

He said the penalty of imprisonment from six months to six years for erring jail guards was inadequate. *With reports from Carlito Pablo, Michael Lim Ubac and Nelson Flores*

Game of the generals?

By Christian V. Esguerra

IS THIS the game that police generals play?

If the rumor mill is to be believed, a ranking official purportedly eyeing the top post in the Philippine National Police had a hand in the escape of the three high-profile terrorists from Camp Crame.

This same official could have also floated the allegation that Deputy Director Gen. Virtus Gil, the PNP's No. 3 man, helped Indonesian bomber Fathur Rohman Al-Ghozi and company escape, according to highly placed Crame sources.

The reason: to destabilize the leadership of PNP chief Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., according to one of the sources who is a retired top official.

"This is too much," he told the Inquirer, referring to the supposed destabilization plot.

According to the source, Ebdane has had to parry a number of controversies to stay at his post.

He said these began when Pentagon gang leader Faisal Marohombsar bolted Camp Crame just before Ebdane became PNP chief in July last year.

Days after Ebdane completed his first year, rumor circulated that he had received a tongue-lashing from President Macapagal-Arroyo, that he was very ill, and that he was about to be relieved, the source noted.

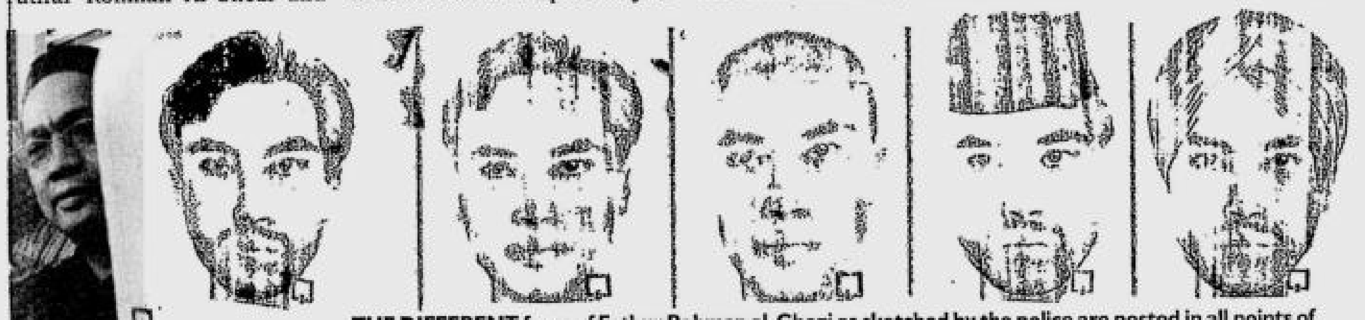
The President will "fall into the trap" if she proceeds with a "top-to-bottom" revamp of the PNP, another ranking official warned.

"It's better to stay with a professional officer like Ebdane than to have a politicized official who can't control his men," the source said. "What's important is that we rid the institution of unscrupulous officials."

Even Gil seems convinced that he is the subject of a demolition job.

"I think it is [a demolition job] because my name usually comes out in the newspapers as among the contenders" for the top PNP post, he said in a radio interview Thursday.

A caller who identified himself as Solaiman had phoned a radio station, claiming that his group had custody of Al-Ghozi allegedly because Gil facilitated the escape.



THE DIFFERENT faces of Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi as sketched by the police are posted in all points of entry to the country. At extreme left is Police Director Eduardo Matillano, who heads the investigation into the escape from the Camp Crame prison of the Jemaah Islamiya terrorist. JOAN BONDOC

Sacked jail guard wants to tell all but . . .

From page A1

Palmares, the man assigned to guard the fugitives' cells, denied that he was sleeping when the escape was made. He said it was he who went to check after "utility boy" Abu Ali told guards about the jailbreak early Monday morning.

"I could not check because I didn't have the keys. I am only a jail guard," he said.

Not sleeping

Palmares refused to pretend to be asleep in the quarters just across the detention cells on the second floor.

"I was not sleeping during the escape, so why would I shame myself during the reenactment?" he told the INQUIRER after the reenactment. "I'm willing to compromise the PNP if only to clear my name. My family's reputation and dignity are at stake here."

Palmares also said he had no training in guarding detainees when he was assigned to the IG building about two weeks before the escape. He said he had just graduated from the Cordillera Administrative Region Training School then.

Agence France Presse quoted Director Ricardo de Leon, spokesperson of the Philippine National Police, as conceding that it was a mistake to give Ali access to the police headquarters. Ali is an ex-detainee who had turned state witness against Al-Ghozi. Out on bail, Ali was employed by the IG as a utility man.

"They should have appreciated the value of this person," De Leon said ruefully.

In the same AFP report, Interior Secretary Jose Lina admitted that an inspection of Al-Ghozi's cell showed that its door was so weak it could be manually pushed out of place.

"I saw it when I investigated. I was really shocked as well," Lina said.

Structural defect

He said the Al-Ghozi escape could "be plain stupidity (or) it can be a grand conspiracy," adding that it was too big a coincidence that security would be so lax as to allow the Indonesian to flee just when Australian Prime Minister John Howard, a key antiterror ally, was visiting the country.

Despite Palmares' protest, Director Eduardo Matillano of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group stuck with the initial results of his probe: That one guard was asleep and another was out shopping when Al-Ghozi and the two other men fled the police jail. No signs of a forced breakout were found.

Matillano took reporters on a tour of the IG's old building in an attempt to follow the fugitives' escape route.

The escape was made possible largely by the defective jail gate that could be opened even with the padlock on, he said, adding:

"We can attribute this escape not only to the human element but also to the structural defect of the detention cell."

But Palmares said investigators were "obviously" blaming the escape largely on "structural defect," purportedly to save the necks of ranking police officials.

IG "utility boy" Ali showed reporters the trick by slightly pulling the steel gate toward the hinge.

The CIDG's Senior Supt. Don Montenegro said Al-Ghozi and Omar Opik Lasal even greased the hinge with cooking oil for an easier escape.

He said the two stayed in two of the three rooms in the first detention cell, and Abdulmukin Edris was in the next cell.

From their cells on the second floor, the fugitives casually walked down the hallway toward the main exit on the ground floor, Montenegro said.

Small guardhouse

Using a small guardhouse, they then jumped over the wall from behind the compound gate, he said.

Matillano said Ali told the fugitives about the defective jail gate three months ago.

Ali supposedly boasted that he could "soften" the steel bars, and later showed the inmates the trick.

Matillano said Ali did not tell IG officials about the defect upon the request of Edris, who feared that the gates might be sealed by a metal sheet.

"(Ali) pitied him," Matillano said.

Congress escape artists urged to lead inquiry

From page A1

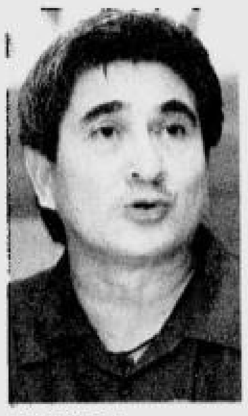
that Malacañang tap as investigators certain people in government who had "experienced life behind, outside and even squeezing out of bars."

These people—all legislators—"authored great escapes before they authored laws," Mitra said in a statement. He named them as:

- Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo who, on May 5, 1985, escaped from his guards while on a prison pass to vote in the National Press Club elections at the NPC building in Manila.
- Sen. Sergio Osmeña who, along with the now deceased Eugenio Lopez Jr., crawled out of his Fort Bonifacio cell in September 1977 and made their way to a waiting plane in Pangasinan that took them to Hong Kong and freedom—the stuff the movie "Eskapo" was made off.
- Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran, the anti-Marcos labor leader who gave his guards the slip while on a prison pass in the early 1980s to attend a relative's birthday celebration.
- Sen. Gregorio Honasan, then a colonel facing trial for his failed coup attempts against the Aquino administration, who swam to freedom from a prison ship off Manila Bay with his Navy commando-guards in tow.

Mitra said this proposed House-Senate team could examine not only the July 14 jailbreak of Indonesian bomber Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi and two suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits but also "how porous Philippine jails have become."

"While the circumstances and motivation for the escape of the four [future lawmakers] are different from Al-Ghozi's, their jailhouse experience can help the legislature appreciate the dynamics of incarceration," he said.



HONASAN

OSMEÑA

BELTRAN

OCAMPO

Prisoners of conscience

Beltran's media liaison officer Ina Silverio said the party-list congressman was "willing to tell his story."

"If it is just sharing Ka Bel's experience, I believe he's willing to help," Silverio said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo earlier formed an independent commission headed by former Justice Jecretary Sedfrey Ordoñez to look into the Al-Ghozi escape.

Mitra said Malacañang could also ask other Marcos-era "prisoners of conscience" to help in the probe: Sen. Aquilino Pimentel and Representatives Loretta Ann Rosales (Akbayan), Oscar Rodriguez (Pampanga), Gregorio Ipong (North Cotabato) and Jose Virgilio Bautista (Sanlakas).

He said former police and military officers now in the legislature could also be tapped: Senators Robert Barbers and Panfilo Lacson and Representatives Amado Espino (Pangasinan) and Tomas Dumpit (La Union)—all former police officers—and Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, a former chief of staff of the Armed Forces.

In case back-up is still needed, there are a number of Marcos-era human rights lawyers who shuttled between prisons and courthouses, Mitra noted.

He named them as Sen. Joker Arroyo and Representatives Prospero Nograles (Davao City), Douglas Cagas (Davao Sur), Florencio Abad (Batanes), Belma Cabilao (Zamboanga del Norte) and Ernesto Clarete (Misamis Occidental).

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Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

FVR daughter hurt in hit-and-run

By Alcuin Papa

IT COULD have happened to anyone, even to the daughter of a former president.

Carolina Ramos-Sembrano, daughter of former president Fidel Ramos, was seriously injured after she was hit by a delivery van in Parañaque City Thursday night.

Sembrano, or "Chula," 45, of Ayala-Alabang, Muntinlupa, had just left the Bacolod Chicken Inasal restaurant on President's Avenue, Sucat, Parañaque, and was crossing the street to her waiting car when an Isuzu Elf (WKY-227) hit her at around 10 p.m., according to the Parañaque traffic police.

Traffic authorities who were on the scene said it was a clear case of "hit-and-run," because the driver, Romeo Cruz, 34, of Bayaning Bayan, Taguig, fled in his van after he hit Sembrano.

On impact, Sembrano hit her head hard on the pavement, which knocked her unconscious, police said.

Bystanders took her to Parañaque Medical Center. Later, Sembrano's family transferred her to the Asian Hospital in Muntinlupa.

Police tracked down the driver at his home and arrested him.

A man close to the Ramos family told the INQUIRER that Sembrano is now out of danger.

"(Sembrano) is now conscious, but doctors are still watching her condition closely," said the man who refused to be identified. "She is now able to verbally communicate with members of her family. This was what the doctors had been waiting for."

At the Parañaque police station, the driver denied it was a hit-and-run incident. In an interview, he said he even flagged down a passing vehicle and asked the driver to bring Sembrano to a hospital. Cruz said he also helped in carrying Sembrano to the waiting vehicle.

In his jail cell, Cruz felt helpless. "I don't have a chance against them," the driver said, referring to the influence of the victim's family. "I never wanted this to happen. I wish they would forgive me for what had happened."

But the man close to the Ramos family denied this was the case.

"The usual process of incidents like these will have to apply in this case, as in any other vehicular accident," the source said.

The source added that Sembrano's family would most likely file charges against Cruz.

Sembrano is the third of five daughters of Fidel and Amelita Ramos. She is married to businessman and retired police officer Alex Sembrano.

CAROLINA Ramos-Sembrano

Wycoco to pursue charges vs Ping

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco is bent on pursuing the kidnapping for ransom charges, among others, against Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Wycoco has written to Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo to ask for an update on Lacson's cases which the bureau had submitted to his office.

Wycoco was referring to the kidnapping charge against Lacson and 14 others for allegedly abducting five Chinese in 1999, one of whom was also murdered, and for the kidnapping and killing of another Chinese, Chong Hiu Ming.

The other abducted Chinese were Zeng Jia Xuan, Hong Zen Quiao, Zeng, Kang Pang, James Wong. The fifth man, Wom Kang Chong, was also killed.

The charges were recommended on the basis of Mary "Rosebud" Ong's statement that the kidnapping and killing were carried out on Lacson's orders.

Wycoco also asked Marcelo about Lacson's other cases, one of which was his failure to declare in his statement of assets and liabilities the bank accounts Lacson allegedly kept in the United States.

Leila Salaverria

Al-Ghozi 'sighted' in Quiapo

By Leila Salaverria

THE WESTERN Police District yesterday raided the Islamic Center in Quiapo, Manila, after an "intelligence report" allegedly showed that escaped alleged terrorist Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi had been sighted there.

In the end, however, not only did the WPD fail to find al-Ghozi, it also could not produce the supposed "intelligence report" that prompted the raid.

So, instead of al-Ghozi, lawmen hauled off "for investigation" 11 persons suspected of drug pushing and other crimes.

"We'll just check if they have existing records," said WPD spokesperson Chief. Insp. Gerry Agunod. "If not, then we will let them go."

According to Agunod, the WPD District Investigation and Intelligence Division (DIID) received information that al-Ghozi had been sighted in the Quiapo area on Thursday night.

However, the DIID through Insp. Teresita Racal, the unit's chief for operations, denied that the report came from them.

DIID director Supt. Edgar Danao also refused to comment on the supposed "intelligence report."

Agunod said the "report" that they received did not specify where the terrorist was seen.

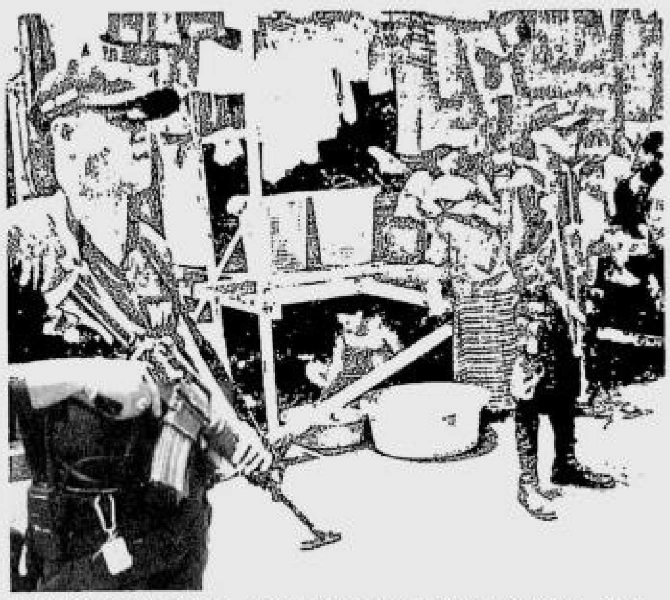
So, policemen from the SWAT and other WPD units swooped down on Palanca, Globo de Oro and Barbosa streets and "Little Vietnam" yesterday morning in search of al-Ghozi.

Criticized for the warrantless search, Agunod stressed that it was a police operation, and not a saturation drive, which did not need warrants.

He added that the operation was peaceful because of the cooperation of leaders in the area.

Meanwhile, National Bureau of Investigation director Reynaldo Wycoco said the bureau had not received any orders from the President to join the fact-finding board to investigate Al Ghozi's escape, but it was ready to help.

He said he would send Background Investigation Division Chief Mamerto Espartero and his men to assist the team.


IT SEEMS that nothing—not a storm or a massive police raid—can deter the woman under the shanty from completing the chore at hand. The woman does her laundry as police comb the Muslim quarter of Quiapo in search of suspected terrorist Fathur Rhoman al-Ghozi. ERIK ARAZAS

Jhobelle joins her sisters

By Edson Tandoc Jr.
and Leila Salaverria

MARIA Jhobelle, the last surviving member of the Calisaan quadruplets, has joined her three sisters.

Jhobelle died at about 11:45 p.m. Thursday at the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit of the Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital (JFMH). She was 2 days, 12 hours and five minutes old.

Dr. Ruben Flores, director of the JFMH, told the INQUIRER yesterday that Jhobelle died of "sepsis neonatorum," a blood infection common among premature babies.

Flores added that Jhobelle also suffered from Respiratory Distress Syndrome, the most common lung disease of premature infants due to their incomplete lung development.

About 4 p.m. on Thursday, Jhobelle was given blood transfusion because her white blood cell and platelet count was very low.

Attending pediatrician Anita Marasigan told the INQUIRER minutes later that Jhobelle was in "very unstable" condition.

The baby was scheduled to undergo frozen plasma transfusion on midnight Thursday but she died fifteen minutes earlier.

The baby's father, Vladimir, was at the hospital when Jhobelle passed away.

"It was painful. But at least (Jhobelle) is not suffering anymore. I know she is already with her sisters," Vladimir told the INQUIRER yesterday. "Maybe her death is God's way of sparing her and us her parents from further suffering."

He said he immediately called his wife Jocelyn and told her the bad news.

"I knew it would devastate her but she had to know what had happened," he added.

During the burial of the three other quadruplets on Thursday afternoon, Jocelyn said she had accepted God's will but that she was still hoping that Jhobelle would live.

Flores said Jhobelle had been in critical condition from the time she was brought to JFMH.

He said the baby's age, having been prematurely born less than 28 weeks in her mother's pregnancy, and her low birth weight at 900 grams, made Jhobelle vulnerable to infections and complications.

He said a baby should weigh more than two kilos to get better chances of survival.

Jhobelle was buried yesterday afternoon in the same tomb at the La Loma Cemetery where her sisters were interred.

Vladimir said they decided against holding a wake for Jhobelle because "we are already very tired."

Nothing serious, Singson says of run-in with his pet tiger

By Margaux Ortiz

HIS FAMED amulet may have done it again.

Former Ilocos Sur governor Luis "Chavit" Singson, who claimed he has an anting-anting (amulet) that has saved his life a number of times, survived the affection of his precocious pet tiger in his Ilocos home on Wednesday morning.

Singson was immediately taken to the Makati Medical Center where he underwent check-up for possible injuries. He was discharged at noon on Thursday and quickly downplayed the incident.

"No, no, I was not mangled or mauled by my tiger," Singson yesterday said in an interview at the Holiday Inn in Manila.

Singson said that contrary to rumors that the tiger had attacked him and broke three of his ribs, he is "perfectly all right."

He said that nine-month-old Tiara, the youngest of his pet tigers, was playing with him that Wednesday morning when the 200-pound tiger, with its leash chained to Singson's hand, turned around and ran in the opposite direction.

"I was caught off-balance," Singson said in Filipino.

Singson said that among his five Bengal tigers, which he keeps at his rest house along with other exotic animals, Tiara is his favorite.

"I treat her like a house cat," he said of the tiger he had imported from India. "That's why Tiara would not betray me."

When asked if he has a permit to keep exotic animals, Singson replied that he had obtained the tigers from legitimate importers.

Restore discipline in PNP

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE $682 million in ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses deposited in a Swiss bank that the Supreme Court has ruled confiscated in favor of the government will go a long way toward perking up the economy.

That is, if the money goes to the right beneficiaries—the victims of human rights violations during the Marcos regime and the farmers covered by the government's land reform program.

Please don't let the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) handle the money! Most of the people at the PCGG, past and present, are as corrupt as the Marcoses.

* * *

The PCGG is like the person who sees the mote in other people's eyes but doesn't see the one in his own eyes.

Since the beginning, the agency which was set up to confiscate all the illegally acquired money and property of the Marcoses, has bungled its job.

Strutting like peacocks, most of its officials used confiscated property as if they owned them. For example, after wearing down a sequestered airplane through constant use, PCGG officials arbitrarily sold it.

* * *

Many PCGG fiscal agents emptied the coffers of sequestered companies. Other PCGG officials and employees tore up the mansions of the Marcoses and their cronies and looted them of valuable paintings and accessories.

Some of its officials ordered some of the Marcos real estate dug up in search of buried treasure. After they couldn't find buried treasure in the property, they didn't care to put back the dug-up dirt.

Most of the Marcos mansions that have been taken over by the PCGG have been left in the same sorry state after they were looted in the early days of the Aquino presidency.

* * *

In the infant stages of the PCGG, the son of one of its top officials made illegal transactions with officials of companies either owned by the Marcoses or their cronies for these firms not to be sequestered.

Subsequently, most of the PCGG officials got the agency involved in shady deals. There was a PCGG official who got into trouble in Hong Kong for selling fake Marcos treasury certificates.

Of course, there are exceptions. Like Haydee Yorac. But Yorac at the PCGG is like rain during the peak of summer.

* * *

So, please don't let the PCGG officials get hold of the Marcos ill-gotten wealth (its peso equivalent is P36 billion) when it is finally turned over to the government.

I'm sure some PCGG people are salivating over the huge amount.

It's like entrusting a chicken coop to a mountain cat.

* * *

The escape of Indonesian terrorist Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi from the supposedly best-guarded Camp Crame jail has exposed the sheer indiscipline of the majority of the officials and rank-and-file members of the Philippine National Police (PNP).

The indiscipline is a result of having done away with the military character of the uniformed service in favor of a civilian personality.

The Cory Aquino Constitution is to blame for the PNP's No. 1 serious ailment: indiscipline.

* * *

The Constitution provides for a police force that is "national in scope and civilian in character."

That provision abolished the historic Philippine Constabulary (PC), the national police at that time, in favor of the Philippine National Police.

The defunct PC, for all its faults, was a disciplined organization. The PC was one of the major services of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

* * *

As a military organization, officers and rank-and-file members of the PC followed the chain of command. PC subordinates obeyed first orders from their superiors and then questioned such orders later.

The obey-first-ask-questions-later principle is no longer practiced in the PNP. When a superior in Manila, for example, transfers a subordinate to Mindanao, the subordinate can run to the court to question the order. Some a policeman would rather resign than follow a lawful order if such an order would displace him.

In the military, a superior can order the arrest on the spot of a subordinate who disobeys lawful orders. Not so in the PNP. Its disobedient member will have to be charged administratively and the hearing takes a long time.

* * *

By the time the complaint for disobedience is resolved the case has lost its steam. This kind of set-up discourages the superior and spoils the disobedient subordinate. That's why many subordinates don't respect their superiors.

There are instances where a PNP junior member doesn't report to a senior officer who has summoned the junior to his office.

I have been a witness to such disobedience. Many times, I brought before a police official a civilian or civilians who were aggrieved by one of the official's men. Many times, also, I found that the police official became embarrassed because the errant subordinate refused to report to his office despite repeated summons.

* * *

The military character should be restored at the PNP—including bringing back military ranks—if we want a disciplined police force. An armed organization should be run the military way. There is no other way.

This means amending our Constitution to do away with the provision giving the PNP its civilian character.

* * *

Starting today, Saturday, the public service program "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo" on RPN 9 has been revitalized to become more competitive with other shows on the same time slot (6-7 p.m.).

The program has a new member, Tony Calvento, a meticulous director. Calvento's artistic talent is very much evident in the newly-overhauled "Isumbong."

Watch it and see how different it is from other public service shows.

METROBRIEFS

Family nabbed for pushing

THE POLICE arrested on Wednesday an alleged family of drug traffickers in Makati City. Angelo Laporteza Sr., 54, a contractor, and his son Angelo Jr., 29, were nabbed in a buy-bust operation inside their home on Infanta Street, Barangay Olympia, at 11:15 a.m. PO1 Herbert Ibias said the father and son yielded nine sachets of shabu worth P4,500. Ibias added that Rebecca Laporteza, wife of Angelo Sr., was later arrested in another buy-bust operation on Constancia Street, Barangay Olympia, at 8:45 p.m. The Laportezas denied the allegations. "These are all lies," said Angelo Sr. *Margaux Ortiz*

Teenager slain in 'frat war'

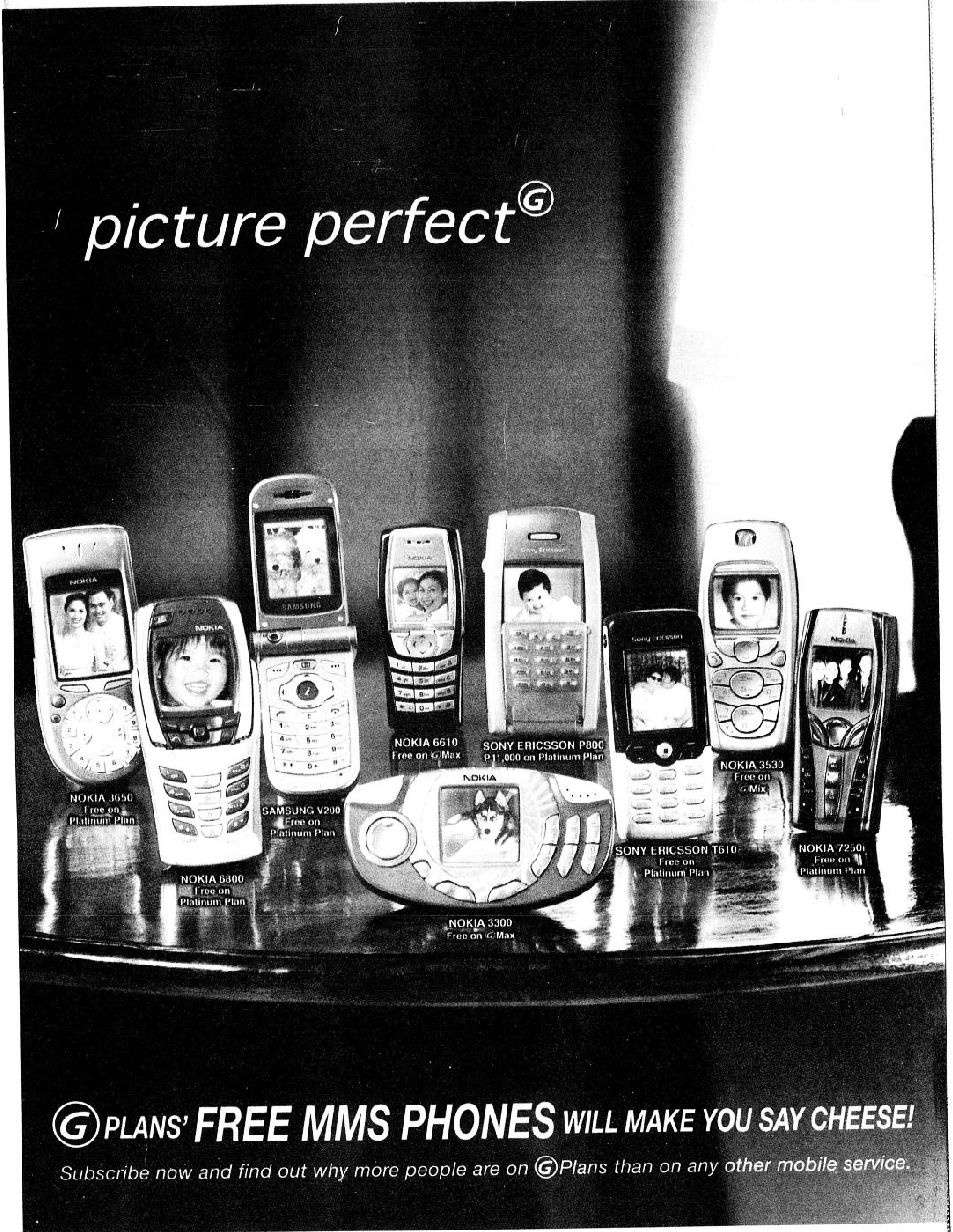
A 19-YEAR-OLD "fraternity" member was shot dead while one of his "brods" was wounded during a reported shoot-out in Manila Thursday night. Francis E. Baslar, of Pilar Street, Tondo, died while receiving treatment at the Ospital ng Tondo, while his "brod" Ronald Coral was treated at the Ospital ng Manila. Investigation showed that Baslar, Coral and other members of the Phi Lambda fraternity were having a drinking spree along Pilar Street at about 10:30 p.m. when a certain Olano of the rival Simple Minded Family shot at them and started a shoot-out. *Leila Salaverria*

Pregnant mom is safe

THE PREGNANT mother who figured in a car accident in Marikina City after midnight Wednesday has recovered well. Maurine Crame, who lost her three-year-old boy in the incident, was discharged from the hospital yesterday, said Dr. Hermie Pueyo resident physician at the St. Vincent's Hospital. Pueyo said the child Crame was carrying was also okay. Crame suffered a minor wound in the forehead, but was generally in good health, Pueyo said. The car that Crame was in had slammed into a tree on Gen. Ordonez Street in Barangay Marikina Heights. *Luige del Puerto*

Robber killed in shoot-out

ONE OF three armed men was shot dead by a policemen during a robbery on a bus in Quezon City before dawn Friday. Romar Siliwan, of San Roque II, Barangay Pag-asa, Quezon City, was declared dead on arrival at the East Avenue Medical Center. Siliwan and his two companions reportedly tried to grab the cell phone of Yeng Maganto, of Mendez Road, Project 7, Quezon City, while they were aboard the RRCG passenger bus (PXM 823) which was cruising on Edsa at 12:05 a.m. SP02 Romeo Catolin, of the Central Police District Kamuning Station, who was also a passenger of the bus, tried to apprehend the suspects but Siliwan reportedly opened fire prompting Catolin to shoot back. *Tina Santos*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SPORTS

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**
Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

BUSTAMANTE overwhelmed compatriot Lee Vann Corteza in the round-of-32.
ROMY HOMILLADA

Django knocks out Bata

FRANCISCO "Django" Bustamante made what might be the shot of the tournament to beat his idol Efren "Bata" Reyes, 11-8, Friday afternoon (evening in Manila) to barge into the quarterfinals of the 2003 World Pool Championship in Cardiff, Wales.

Bustamante thus arranged a last-8 match with either Thorsten Hohmann of Germany or Canadian Luc Salvas, both of whom are not ranked highly in the tournament.

Reyes joined 2001 world champion Mika Immonen of Finland in the sidelines of the prestigious event that his tormentor narrowly missed winning last year.

Immonen never had a chance against Yang Ching-shun after the Chinese-Taipei star rocketed in front 9-5 with some steady shotmaking. Yang eventually finished the match at 11-5.

The third Philippine bet to reach the last 16, Ramil "Bebeng" Gallego, was playing Alex Pagulayan, a full-blooded Filipino carrying the colors of Canada, at presstime.

Bustamante's second turn at the table, following an uncharacteristically fruitless break in the 19th rack, finally sank the man they call "the Magician."

Aiming for the 1-ball with an angled shot, Bustamante hit the ball soft and let it kiss the 8-ball. The 8-ball ricochet carried enough speed to push the 9-ball towards the side pocket.

"(The shot) was really amazing," he said after the pulse-poundinig match. "We (Filipinos) did not want to face each other, but we could do anything about it."

Apart from the Reyes-Bustamante duel, the match between defending champion Earl "The Pearl" Strickland and six-time world snooker titlist Steve Davis of England drew much attention.

Strickland, who downed Bustamante for last year's crown, trounced Haruyoshi Hinokiyama (9-3) while Davis, a 2000 quarterfinalist, thwarted Kunihiko Takahashi (9-6).

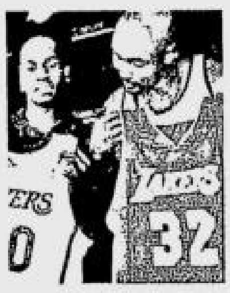
The 16 survivors are assured of at least $2,000 (P106,000) each. *Roy Luarca*

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Jungolfer Unson best Filipino finisher /A20

- Warriors, Archers gun for share of early lead /A22

- South African ahead by one /A24



- Lakers welcome Malone, Payton /A24

- Realista stuns Manalo /A26

SPORTS TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

POOL: World Pool Championship 2003; Day 7, 1st Session; 7 a.m. (r); Star Sports; 8 a.m. (r); ESPN; Day 7, 2nd Session; 12 noon (r); Star Sports; Day 8, Quarterfinals and Semifinals; 9 p.m. and tomorrow at 2 a.m.; Star Sports—The pressure and tension rises as the tournament reaches the quarterfinals and semifinals.

MOTOR SPORTS: Foster's British Grand Prix Qualifying; 8:55 p.m.; ESPN; 2:30 p.m. (r), 12:30 a.m.; Star Sports—Will Ralf Schumacher earn another victory or will older brother Michael steal the thunder?

GOLF: 2003 British Open, Second Round; 1 p.m. (r); ESPN; Highlights; 4 p.m.; RPN 9; Third Round; 5 p.m. and 10 p.m.; ESPN; 7 p.m.; RPN 9—Golf's third major reaches its critical stage and the contenders are distinguished from the pretenders.

BASKETBALL: WNBA Action; 7:30 a.m. (r-4 p.m.); ESPN—Get your fill of women's hoops in this half-hour program.

1984 NBA Western Finals, Lakers vs Suns, Game 6; 8:30 a.m. (r-5 p.m.); Solar Sports—Rewind 19 years ago and see LA face off against Phoenix in this western showdown.

BASEBALL: Rockies vs Giants; 10 a.m.; ESPN—Colorado takes on San Francisco in clash of NL squads.

CYCLING: Tour de France; 4:30 p.m.; ESPN—Check out the thrills and spills as Stage 12 goes underway.

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ROSALES: In a big bunch at 2-under-par 69. AP

Jenny 3 shots adrift in Big Apple Classic

NEW ROCHELLE, New York—Jennifer Rosales returned a two-under-par 69 to trail leader Kim Mi-Hyun of South Korea by three shots at the start of the LPGA Big Apple Classic.

Rosales, already in the top 30 of the LPGA money list with several top 10 finishes this year, was in a bunch that included Laura Diaz, Cindy Figg-Currier, King Young Kim and Grace Park of Korea, Meg Mallon, Amy Read and the popular Suzy Whaley.

Frontrunner Kim made four birdie putts of 15 feet or longer in a 5-under-par 66 that gave her a one-stroke lead over Liz Earley and Silvia Cavalleri with eight players another shot back.

But it was Whaley's 69 that drew the most attention at Wykagyl Country Club.

The 36-year-old teaching pro qualified last September for next week's Greater Hartford Open on the PGA Tour. She's using a sponsor's exemption at this LPGA event to get ready for her date with the men.

Whaley, who will play in a PGA event two months after Annika Sorenstam competed in the Colonial, acknowledged the fans' support.

Kim, who hasn't missed a cut since June 2001, said she feels better after battling stomach problems since the Corning Classic in May. *AP*

WORLD JUNGOLF

Rookie Unson best Filipino finisher

By Jong Arcano

SAN DIEGO, California—Ma. Andrea Unson is bringing home a Callaway Junior World golf trophy she didn't expect to win. Wolen Juan Superal is taking with him a loss his teammates didn't expect.

Unson, practically a beginner with barely half a year of competitive experience, snatched the role of a surprise package originally designed for Superal when the 8-year-old girl placed second in her division for the Philippines' best performance in the multi-nation tourney.

Unson, a second grader at Poveda who started the day six shots back, carded a three-over-par 58 at the Presidio Hills course and wound up tied for second at 174, three shots behind the winner Allison Lee of Los Angeles.

The spotlight fell on Unson, a lawyer's daughter, when Superal's date with instant fame turned into a heartbreaking setback that caused him to weep over the many putting misses that did him in at the scorer's tent.

In the end, Superal fell victim to lack of exposure to tight situations.

Unchallenged back home, Superal finally found his match in American Cameron Wilson and Thai Panuphol Pittayarat.

Suddenly the confidence he showed in mastering the Singing Hills-Pine Glen course that seemed too short for his power was gone, and the putter that was supposed to lead him to victory turned cold. He closed out with a two-over par 60 for 168 and finished fourth in Class D (9-10).

Wilson nipped Pittayarat in a playoff for the crown.

World champion Dottie Ardina's catch-up bid didn't lead her anywhere on a day when Americans flexed their muscles in most of the divisions played in various venues.

Ardina was gaining ground until she got her ball stuck in the branch of a tree on the 14th, took a penalty en route to a triple bogey. That hurt her a lot as her one-under 58 left her with just a fourth place finish at 173.

It was Los Angeles bet Danniel Frazier who pulled off the rally Ardina wanted to do, firing a seven-under 52 for 165 to beat Indian Tanya Widahwa (59-167) for the crown.

There were other noteworthy finishes that completed the best showing by an RP team in the Junior World despite its victory drought. Miguel Tabuena wound up sixth in the boys 6-8 years and John Kier Abdon and Debbie De Villa placed sixth and joint fourth, respectively, in Class C at Lawrence Welk.

Miko Alejandro limped home with a 76 for 220 and settled for a share of 27th while Mikee Camitoc a 75 for 42nd in the boys 13-14 years at Cottonwood where Geleen Handog had a 79-237. Ma. Christina Potenciano settled for seventh with a 66-281 in girls 6-8 years.

Of the 26 players who made up the Philippine contingent sponsored by Philippine Airlines, Samsung Phils., Airlift Asia, Philippine Sports Commission, Global Lightings and MCCI, 15 qualified to play in the final round.

Superal three-putted four times, two at the height of a shootout in the middle of the round and the last on the 18th which cost him third place as it was decided through a countback.

He was too frustrated to say a word even after he had received his trophy.

Unson's father, Rene, just couldn't believe Andie almost pulled it off considering the course conditions.

"They pushed the tee mounds back and made it the toughest in three days. But it's okay because it turned (the event) more exciting and tested the capabilities of the children," said the elder Unson.

Significantly, Unson's total of 174 was better than the winning 175 posted by Ardina last year.

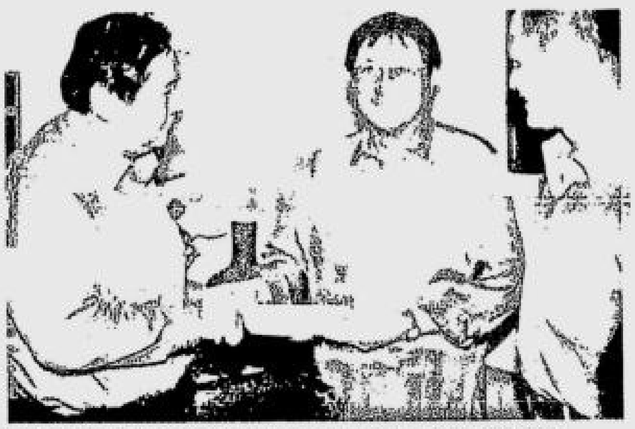
The Philippine scores:

Class A (Torrey Pines): Justin Tambunting 75-228, Terence Macatangay 79-239, Carl Santos-Ocampo 83-243, Aran Olea 89-251; Jayvie Agojo 79-231, Matet Salivio 80-236

Class B (Cottonwood): Miko Alejandro 76-220, Mikee Camitoc 75-223, (Singing Hills) Geleen Handog 79-237 Class C (Lawrence Welk): Jik Jik Abdon 60-183, Debbie de Villa 64-193

Class D (Singing Hills): Wolen Superal 60-165, Jobim Carlos 59-175, Dottie Ardina 58-173

Class E (Presidio Hills): Miguel Tabuena 56-116, JR Gonzales 55-170, JP de Claro 62-179, Andie Unson 58-174, Kristina Potenciano 66-181



FIRST Gentleman Mike Arroyo hands the check to NCFP's Sammy Estimo as "Medalyang Ginto, May Laban Tayo!" project consultant Rod Nepomuceno looks on.

Arroyo boosts SEAG stint of chessers

MAKING good on a promise to sustain the build-up of the national chess team, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo recently paved the way for the release of funds from his foundation to the National National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP).

Following the signing of a memorandum of agreement between the First Gentleman Foundation and the NCFP, Mr. Arroyo awarded the check representing the initial assistance to the national team training for the Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam in December.

NCFP secretary general Sammy Estimo said the foundation will defray the training expenses of the team as well as secure training venues and chess paraphernalia for the nationals.

The MOA also assured the training for the country's top 10 young players who will be sent to the World Youth Chess Championships in Greece in October.

Mr. Arroyo is confident that the Philippines will once again regain its stature as the foremost chess force in Asia if young pawn pushers like Ronald Dableo and Mark Paragua are given the necessary technical and financial assistance to enhance their skills.

He stressed that the FG Foundation Inc. will exert all efforts to source funds in order to promote chess at the grassroots level.

The agreement between the FG Foundation and the NCFP is just one of the undertakings of the "Medalyang Ginto, May Laban Tayo!" program of Mr. Arroyo to boost Filipino sports.

UAAP volley, women's caging start in 2 venues

HOSTILITIES in volleyball and women's basketball begin in two venues tomorrow in the 66th season of the University Athletic Association of the Philippines.

Eight matches usher in the volleyball competition at the University of the Philippines-Diliman gym with defending men's champion Santo Tomas battling last year's third placer UP after the La Salle-Far Eastern opener at 8.

In other volleyball action, Adamson plays National University at 10 a.m. and University of the East tackles Ateneo in the next game.

In women's volleyball, UE goes up against Ateneo at 8 a.m., reigning titlist FEU plays UST at 9, La Salle meets UP at 10 and Adamson tackles National at 11.

Defending women's basketball champion La Salle will not see action until next Sunday against UE.

Tomorrow, the Adamson cagebelles play UE at 8 at the Adamson gym, FEU goes up against UST at 9:30 and UP collides with Ateneo at 11.

Five of the 14 sports in the UAAP calendar will be played in the first semester.

The basketball, volleyball and chess tournaments begin on Aug. 3 at the UE campus and table tennis action starts on the same day at the UST campus. The swimming competitions, to be hosted by De La Salle University in September, will be held at the Rizal Memorial pool.

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Hands of time

GREG Norman is trying to turn back the hands of time. Tiger Woods is trying to get back the hymn of rhyme.

For a while there, Norman looked like the winner that he was in the 1993 British Open; he fired an eagle 3 on No. 4 yesterday, going 4-under through 13 holes.

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

Norman, whose last win came in 1998, eventually finished 2-under to be near the leaders after Round 1 of the 132nd edition of golf's birth at the Royal St. George's in Sandwich, England.

At 48, Norman, known as the "Great White Shark," could become the oldest winner of a major with a victory on Sunday. Jack Nicklaus was 46 when he won the 1986 Masters at Augusta.

But before I say Norman will win it, if not make the cut, let me first delve on Tiger Woods' first-round misadventure.

Right on his first tee shot, Woods showed us how not to win a major.

First, Woods pushed his opening shot into the deep rough. Despite 25 people rushing to his ball, he lost it.

Firing a reload, Woods drove to the spot near where he lost the first ball. Marshals looking for the first ball found the second one easily. But all Woods could do was hack it out of thigh-high grass, the ball landing near some television cables left of the fairway.

He wound up with a triple-bogey 7.

Is Woods not known to own an array of firsts?

Yesterday, he made a couple of firsts to start with.

The first-hole 7 was not only his worst start in any tournament he had played in, it was also the first time he lost a ball after a tee shot.

He was also the first No. 1 ranked golfer in the world to score a triple-bogey and the first to lose a ball in a major right in the first hole.

To be sure, Tiger Woods played yesterday like he was not Tiger Woods.

Like a rookie conductor without a baton, Woods unleashed a repertoire of shots that were very un-chamber-like. Fit for the archives.

His encore lasted nearly four hours. If there were but a throng of souls who followed his every bizarre move, every twisted shot, it was only out of sheer idolatry.

Never mind that Woods the Mozart of golf had transformed Rhapsody in Blue into Bohemian Rhapsody, or Blue Danube into a Linkin' Park metal.

Fans are blind to an icon's antics.

Never mind that there was only grime and no rhyme from Woods in Round 1.

Fans adore the singer, not the song; tone-deaf they are when it comes to their tenor a la Pavarotti.

Even as Woods finished 2-over for the day yesterday, his fans would dismiss that as "just like another rough day in the office."

Next day, they'll be back to cheer him on. Idols cannot make mistakes everyday. Even if they do, they'll still be adored. Fanaticism has no rules, it's unconditional.

Greg Norman has had his time. This is Tiger Woods era.

Norman is here to relive glory: A 64 on the last day gave him the British Open in 1993. Everything that he does now is but nostalgia, a piece of apologia even.

Woods is here to live glory: Either a 64 or an 84 will not mean a thing. Everything that he does is grist for copy, never an object of ridicule. If Woods wins despite that bad Round 1, nobody will be surprised.

But a Norman victory?

A shock like no other.

But, alas, Norman can never turn back the hands of time. A shoulder operation had stilled him once. A back injury keeps recurring. He can only be a one-day wonder, like what Tom Watson, the five-time British Open champion, was in the last US Open. One close to 50 can never sustain a 4-day grind. In a major yet. Nobody ever did. Tough as hell.

Competitive golf has always been for the young.

C'mon, Ed Gaddi. Admit it. While it is true that "oldies are goldies" in that golf is for the oldies, too, the game of golf, to "goldies but not oldies" like me, should always be treated as fun.

Leave the winning to the young. The young once have known how it is to win; what should prod them now to move on, to play on, is leisure.

Norman will win it this year?

If he makes the cut, pop the champagne cork out.

For now, gin it will be.

***

FASTBREAK. Macy M. Pineda writes to say her babe, the 2003 Defense & Sporting Arms Show Part II, will be held Aug. 14-18 at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall B, Ortigas Center along Edsa, Mandaluyong City.

Season of blowouts:

By Dennis U. Eroa

BLOWOUTS are getting to be a habit for the UAAP's leading high school basketball teams.

Four days after University of the Philippines Integrated School opened its title-retention bid with an overpowering 50-point victory over National, 91-41, and Ateneo dumped University of the East, 107-84, it was the turn of Santo Tomas to take the spotlight.

Last Thursday, the UST Baby Tigers tore the hapless NU Bullpups to pieces with a whopping 89-point victory, 124-35, which mesmerized the sizeable Big Dome crowd that came mainly to watch the varsity gam
NU and Ateneo

Bigger, faster
buckled down t
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defense, the Ba
quarter, 32-11.

The merciles

JAMES Yap of UE prepares for a jumper.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Warriors, Archers gu for share of early lea

STANDINGS	W	L
FEU	2	0
La Salle	1	0
UE	1	0
UST	1	1
NU	1	1
Adamson	0	1
UP	0	1
Ateneo	0	2

GAMES TODAY (*Loyola Gym*)
11 a.m.—Adamson vs UE (Jrs)
2 p.m.—Adamson vs UE (Srs)
4 p.m.—La Salle vs UP (Srs)
6 p.m.—DLSU-Zobel vs UP (Jrs)

By Dennis U. Eroa

LA SALLE, rookie-laden but still showing
of old, and title-hungry University of th
rate rivals today seeking a share of th
UAAP men's basketball championship at the

The Archers must again play solidly against the University of the Philippines Maroons, who are trying to rebound after going down to the National U Bulldogs, 74-70, in the opener last Sunday at the Big Dome.

The La Salle-UP clash set at 4 p.m. is the main attraction of a quadruple bill which also includes two junior matches.

The UE Warriors, who finally got back at Ateneo's defending champion Eagles also Sunday, meet the Adamson Falcons earlier at 2 p.m.

It will be the Baby Falcons against the UE Pages in the
The other high s
Zobel against t
the Philippines I
nightcap at 6 p.

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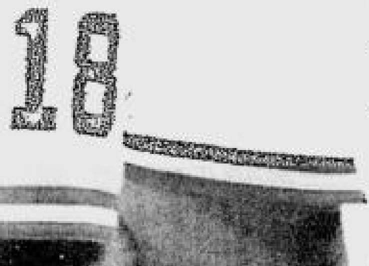


Dolphins sink Alta Lions maul Blazer

By June Navarro

GAMES MONDAY (*Rizal Coliseum*)
11:30 p.m.—Mapua vs CSB (jrs/srs)
3 p.m.—SBC vs SSC-R (jrs/srs)

THE SIZZLE fizzled out fast for Perpetual Help of Rizal.

Unable to fill the void left by the injured Robert Barnson, the Altas plummeted to their third straight defeat, this time to the Philippine Christian Dolphins, 79-58, yesterday in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Barnson, a prized-find from Olivarez College, injured his knee during the Altas' 92-76 loss at the hands of the San Beda Lions last week and the 6-foot-5 pivotman was sorely missed as the Dolphins raced to their second victory in five games.

The setback further reduced the status of the Altas, who were touted as pre-tournament favorites and opened up the season with back-to-back wins, including a decision over defending champion San Sebastian.

The Lions later thrashed the St. Benilde Blazers, 91-81, to tie idle San Sebastian, Mapua and Letran for second at 3-2.

The Blazers fell to 0-5.

Without Barnson, the Altas proved no match for the Dolphins who opened up a 24-10 lead after 10 minutes of play behind playmaker Ramon Retaga, Ian Garrido, Robert Sanz and Joseph Roque.

The Dolphins padded the lead to 42-26 at halftime, giving coach Jimmy Mariano the luxury of freely shuffling his boys in the final half.

Roque finished with 17 points while Retaga and Sanz added 14 and 11, respectively, for the Dolphins, who bounced back from a 61-50 setback against the Mapua Cardinals a week ago.

"We controlled the game from the start and we were able to sustain it by putting up a mean man-to-man defense until the end," said Mariano in Filipino.

Dom Javier and rookie Khiel Misa failed to assert themselves, putting much of the Altas' scoring load on Gerald Botin, who finished with a game-high 18 points.

The Dolphins will go up next against the league-leading Jose Rizal Heavy Bombers (4-1) on Wednesday.

"If we play the same defense we did today, we have a chance against JRU," said Mariano.

The PCU Baby Dolphins set the tone for the Taft-based dribblers after drubbing the UPHR A
106-87, in the curtain-rais

Carlo Carlobos unlo
points and Eduardo H
added 17 as the Baby
barged into the win-colu
four consecutive setbacks
talettes dropped to 0-5.

SCORES:

FIRST GAME (jrs)

PCU 106—Carlobos 24, He
Zapanta 15, Al-Hussaini 12, E
Doria 8, Roxas 7, Umlas 5, Esp
cha 2, Flores 1, Dela Torre 0, Go

UPHR 87—Lozano 24, Sole
ganiban 12, Sanchez 10, Dela Cru
po 6, Ballesteros 3, Restauro 3,
Madridejo 2, Albano 0, Jardiel 0, B

Quarters: 24-21, 61-41, 76-6

SECOND GAME (srs)

PCU 79—Roque 17, Retag
11, Garrido 9, Senining 8, Castr
6, Salangsang 4, Acraman 2, Be

UPHR 58—Botin 18, Misa 1
Joe 6, Cuenco 6, Tayer 4, Balbo
1, Mendoza 0, Aseron 0, Quia/o

Quarters: 24-10, 42-26, 61-4

THIRD GAME (srs)

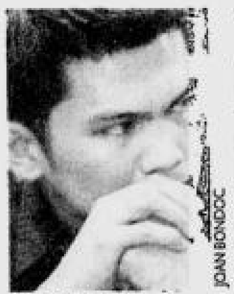
SBC 91—Paterno 22, Co
Bughao 18, Bombeo 11, Casino 9
5, Angeles 3, Baldivia 2, Antonio
Apepe 0, Weber 0, Cruz 0, Ong 0

CSB 81—Capati 22, Abad 15
Reyes 8, Sanidad 8, Paguio 4
Magpayo 3, Quizon 3, Ang 0, Me

Quarters: 26-21, 37-44, 64-5

Judge upholds GAB jurisdiction over drug issue in PBA

By June Navarro



GONZALES

JOAN BONDOC

IT'S THE Games and Amusements Board, and not the courts, which has jurisdiction over decisions of the Philippine Basketball Association regarding the case of drug users in the pro league.

GAB chairperson Eduardo Villanueva stressed this yesterday after Norman Gonzales of Talk 'N Text was told by the Angeles City judge handling his suit against PBA commissioner Noli Eala that the GAB is the appropriate body to decide on his plea for reinstatement.

"They (Gonzales and his lawyer) we're told that by filing the case in court, they are bound to bypass the GAB, which has supervisory powers over the PBA including its players," said Villanueva.

Gonzales, through his lawyer Efren Hipolito Jr., had recently filed in Angeles City a suit seeking to lift the indefinite suspension slapped on him by Eala for testing positive for prohibited drugs two months ago.

Villanueva said the GAB has been hearing the cases of the players who failed the PBA's random and mandatory drug tests to decide who should be reinstated before the league's third conference reels off in September.

"It should be decided quickly. If they're guilty, they should undergo rehabilitation. If not, then the players should be allowed to play again in the PBA," said Villanueva.

He said Red Bull's Davonn Harp, Talk 'N Text's Long David and Noli Locsin, Ryan Bernardo of FedEx, Dorian Peña of San Miguel Beer, Barangay Ginebra's Jun Limpot and Alex Crisano, and Gonzales, who all failed the drug tests, attended the GAB's preliminary hearing on Wednesday.

Three more hearings are scheduled before the GAB—in close coordination with the PBA—wraps up its findings and decides whether players should be allowed to see action immediately or go through rehabilitation.

Aces, Gin Kings arrange

By June Navarro

GAMES TOMORROW (*Cuneta Astrodome*)
4 p.m.—Purefoods vs Sta. Lucia
6:30 p.m.—Alaska vs Ginebra

ALASKA outlasted Sta. Lucia Realty in overtime, 93-86, and Barangay Ginebra dumped Shell, 102-82, at the Cuneta Astrodome last night to forge a sudden-death match for the right to join the Samsung-PBA Invitational Championship.

Alaska will carry a 3-0 card when it plays Barangay Ginebra (2-1) tomorrow. The winner of the game will make it to the Invitationals alongside early qualifiers Talk 'N Text, FedEx, San Miguel Beer, Coca-Cola and Red Bull.

John Arigo's flawless shooting in the extension proved decisive for the Aces, who fended

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Baby Tigers rip Bullpups by 89

es pitting UST against
gainst FEU.
and stronger, the Tigers
work early in the one-
. With Mark Panahon
es mocking NU's token
by Tigers took the first
.
. España-based youngsters then limited the Bullpups to just five points while exploding for 33 in the next 10 minutes to open up a 65-16 halftime advantage.

It was clear that the Bullpups weren't capable of at least trimming the margin in the end. The lone shining star for NU was slippery Reagan Balabbo, who managed to finish in double figures with 13.

Jay Leyga scattered 23 points, 15 in the fourth period, to lead the Baby Tigers. Flores and Panahon combined for 37 points which was two points more than the total NU output.

John Domingo and Ryan Poblete also chipped in 10 points apiece for UST, which is determined to challenge UP's supremacy this year.

SCORES (Jrs):

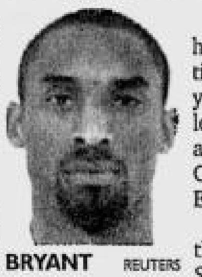
UST 124—Leyga 23, Flores 20, Panahon 17, Domingo 10, Poblete 10, Badua 9, Franco 8, Mejica 8, De la Cruz 6, Crisostomo 6, Principe 4, Zapanta 3.

NU 35—Balabbo 13, Valencia 8, Garduno 6, De Leon 3, Piamonte 2, Co 2, Bernade 1, Gawson 0, Conopio 0.

Quarters: 32-11, 65-16, 93-20, 124-35.

Dennis U. Eroa

Kobe's moment of truth



BRYANT REUTERS

EAGLE, Colorado—Los Angeles Lakers star Kobe Bryant will know Friday whether he will be charged with sexually assaulting a woman.

The announcement will be made at the county's justice center, Betty Nestor of the county district attorney's office announced Thursday.

Prosecutor Mark Hurlbert would not be available for comment until then, she said.

Bryant, 24, turned himself in to authorities July 4. The 19-year-old woman alleged he attacked her at the Lodge & Spa at Cordillera in nearby Edwards on June 30.

His attorney said the five-time NBA All-Star is innocent and was in Colorado for knee surgery at a Vail clinic. A Los Angeles Times report said Bryant claimed he "would never do something like that." *AP*

n

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TYRONE Tang of La Salle tries to dribble past Jinino Manansala of UST. AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

the fighting heart
East tackle sepa-
early lead in the
oyola Gym.

11 a.m. curtain raiser.
chool game pits DLSU-
leholder University of
ntegrated School in the
.
d the Warriors hope to
n Tamaraws, who post-
traight victory by slap-
ss on Ateneo's defend-
gles Thursday.
time to babysit," said
maren when asked to
rmance of La Salle's
iously, Pumaren, who seemed unaffected by La Salle's untested roster, expects his rookies to blend well with the holdovers bannered by Mac Cardona, Joseph Yeo and Carlo Sharma in the early part of the season.

In La Salle's 88-75 winning debut over UST last Saturday at the Big Dome, Pumaren was able to extract the best from rookies Jerwin Gaco, Joseph Casio, Tim Gatchalian and Mark Benitez, who recovered from a jittery start in front of a jampacked, screaming crowd to finish the game with a flourish.

Playmaker Tyrone Tang, formerly Mike Cortez's reliever, also showed improvements in his second year as he masterfully took charge in the backcourt.

But Pumaren knows that the Maroons will be hard to beat since the Diliman-based dribblers are determined to come back after losing to the Bulldogs mainly because of their erratic stand in the dying minutes.

"UP is a better team than the team which lost to NU. The Maroons were excited during the opener and I expect them to improve a lot. Remember that UP is deep in all positions," Pumaren noted.

In beating UST, Pumaren wisely rotated his men with La Salle's big moment coming when its veterans were on the bench.

"Again, our chances will depend on how fast the rookies blend with my veterans," Pumaren said.

The 6-foot-5 Sharma, who needs to play big if the Archers want to go far this season, must keep his focus and control his emotions as he battles 6-foot-7 sophomore JayR Reyes inside the lane.

UE debuted with an ego-boosting 69-68 squeaker over titlist Ateneo but coach Boyzie Zamar feels Adamson isn't going to be easy picking.

"The Falcons are capable of making big runs toward the homestretch and we must not lower our guard," Zamar said.

UE last won the UAAP title in 1985. The Warriors had a chance to reach the finals last year but blew their twice-to-beat advantage in the Final Four against the Eagles, who went on to claim the title over the Archers.

The Recto-based hoopsters will be bannered again by veterans Paul Artadi, Jay-ar Estrada, Arnold Booker and James Yap.

Coach Luigi Trillo has also shaped the Falcons, who lost their opening game to the Tamaraws, into a dangerous squad which can upstage the warriors. Expected to play key roles for the Falcons are playmaker Ramil Tagupa, shooter Mark Abadia and swingman Patrick Tiongco.

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mba 0.
7, 106-87

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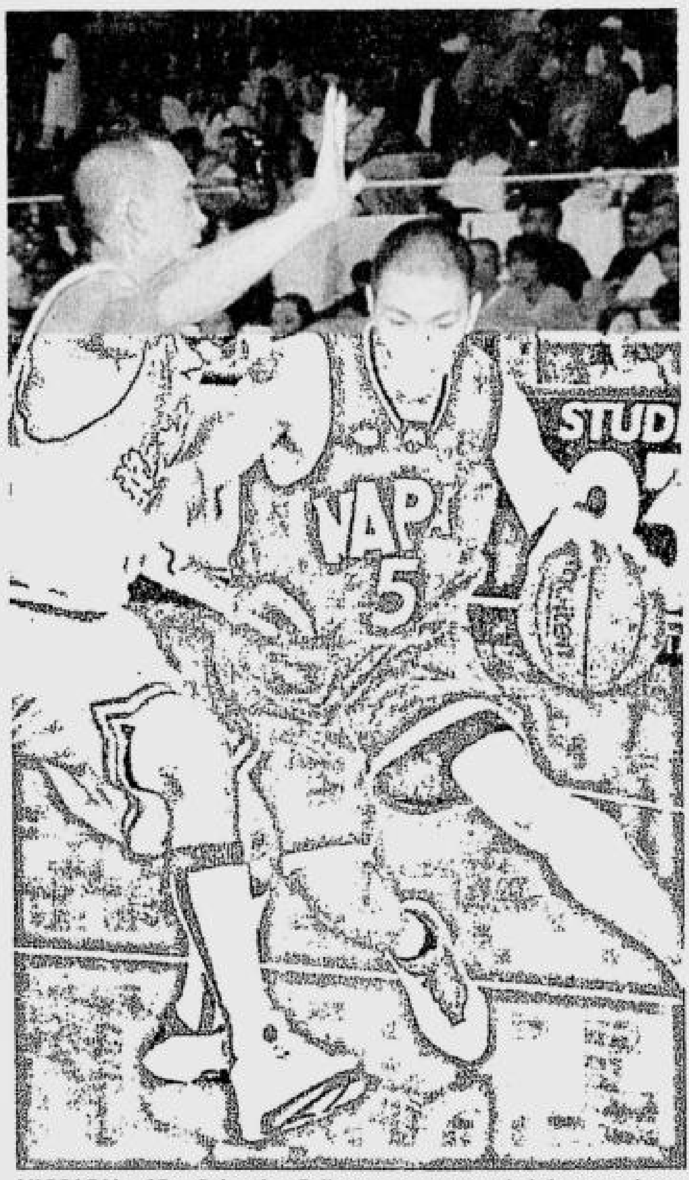
7, 91-81.



NICOLE Uy of San Sebastian College puts up a tough defense against Mapua's Tristan Veranga. The Stags won this one, 63-61. RUDY ESPERAS

NBL ACTION

Lhuillier downs Pampanga, gains homecourt edge

Games Today
3 p.m.—M. Lhuillier vs Compak Shineway
5 p.m.—AirPhil Bacolod vs Taguig

CEBU CITY—Aldrin Ocanada scored seven of his nine points in the last six minutes as M. Lhuillier Kwarta Padala rapped the Pampanga Bulls, 80-70, Thursday to raise its front-running record to 9-1 in the National Basketball League championship at the new Cebu Coliseum here.

The victory assured the Cebuanos of homecourt advantage in the semifinals of the tourney sponsored by Tanduay Rhum, Air Philippines, Cebu Ferries, Nature's Spring Drinking Water, SuperCat, BJ Star Logistics, Panasonic, Sinners and Saints, The Freeman, Jaguar KTV, Gatorade and Molten Basketballs.

Earlier, Forward Taguig took advantage of Compak Shineway-Ozamiz's last-minute woes to escape with a 67-66 win.

Taguig's fifth win in nine games boosted its chances of overtaking the third-running Bulls (6-5).

Action resumes at the Natalio Velez gym in Silay City, Negros Occidental today with the Cebuanos facing Compak Shineway at 3 p.m. and host Air Philippines-Bacolod taking on Taguig at 5.

Down 50-64 after three quarters, the Bulls rallied behind Pet Duyag and Dave Bautista to cut the deficit to five, 63-68, with 6:12 left.

But after Reuben de la Rosa fired a trey, Ocanada unloaded three baskets, including a triple, to cap a 12-3 run that put the outcome beyond recall, 80-66.

SCORES:

FIRST GAME

TAGUIG 67—Villar 14, Medoza 13, Roldan 13, Robillos 12, Cahanding 5, Bernardino 3, Macanig 3, Go-bon 2, Sta. Maria 2, Quimpo 0, Nuqui 0, Dals 0

COMPAK 66—Cabigkis 15, Guerrero 12, Misola 10, Ferraren 8, Jaca 7, Alvarado 6, Marucot 4, Cabrera 2, Dellna 2, Sampilo 0, Mejia 0

SECOND GAME

LHUILLIER 80—Aying 12, Enriquez 10, Dacia 10, Rodriguez 9, Ocanada 9, Canoneo 8, De la Rosa 8, Lumantas 6, Smith 4, Cantona 2, Caputolan 2

PAMPANGA 70—Bautista 12, Tolentino 12, Bansil 12, Duyag 10, Garcia 7, Alberto 7, Yambao 4, Cocjin 2, Manlutac 2, Tadeo 2, S. Garcia 0, Manalac 0, R. Garcia 0

Quarterscores: 18-19, 41-34, 60-54, 80-70

e sudden-death for Invitational slot

off a fierce rally by the Realtors led by Marlou Aquino.

Aquino finished with a career-high 35 points, hitting 15 during the Realtors' searing 20-4 run in the last quarter that paved the way for a thrilling finish.

Successive misses by Arigo, Ali Peek and Rob Duat in the final seconds of regulation threw the match into overtime, 77-all.

"We didn't quit when they (Realtors) came back from 15 points down. Sta. Lucia had the chance to win in regulation but we stood our ground. I'm proud of the team for that," said Alaska coach Tim Cone.

The Realtors absorbed their second straight loss after beating Ginebra two weeks back and bowed out of the series.

Arigo sank three jumpers in overtime and finished with 31 points for the Aces.

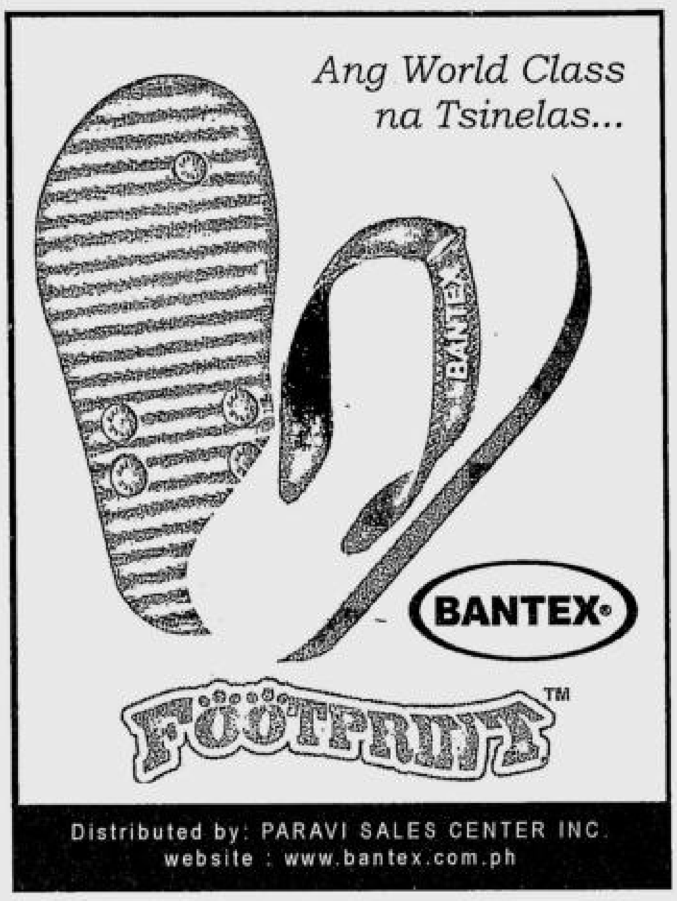
SCORES:

First Game

ALASKA 93—Arigo 31, Peek 14, Allado 12, Cablay 10, Padilla 9, Felhi 7, Cortez 6, Duat 4, Noble 0.

STA. LUCIA 86—Aquino 35, Adriano 10, Espino 9, Yu 7, Santos 6, Victolero 6, Mendoza 6, Bat-og 5, Francisco 2, Webb 0, Ong 0, Tan 0.

Quarters: 14-12, 41-26, 53-46, 77-all (regulation), 93-86.



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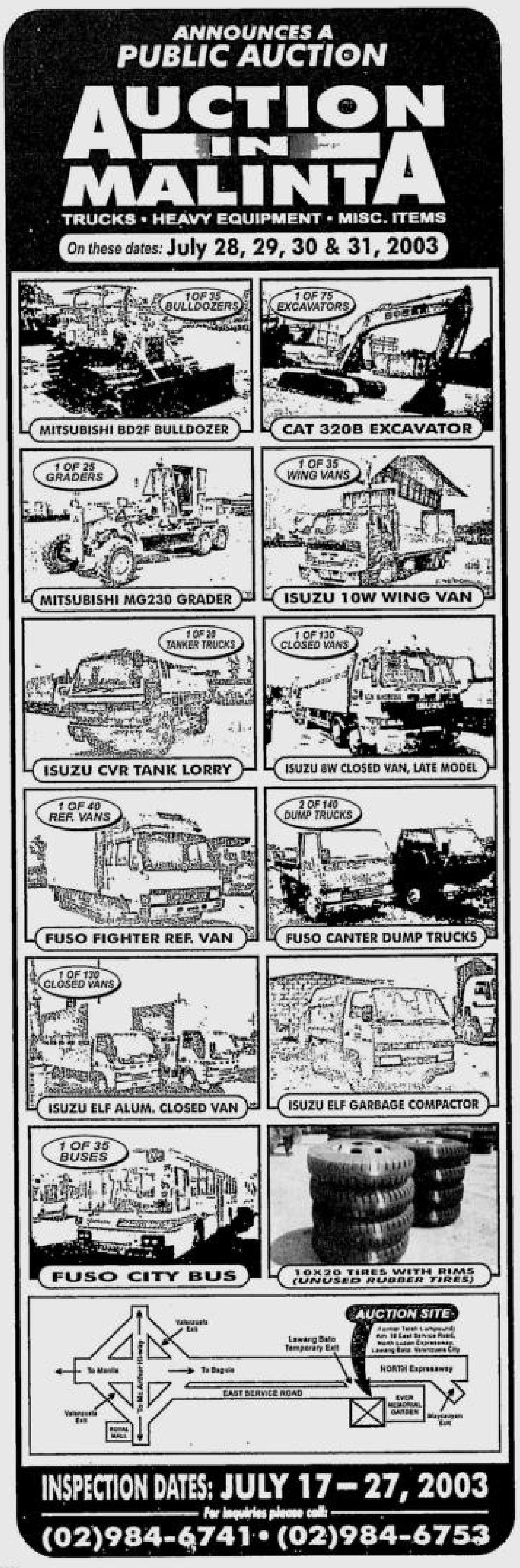

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Lance hangs on ahead of crucial time trial

US actor Arnold Schwarzenegger helps compatriot Lance Armstrong put on his yellow jersey. AFP

TOULOUSE, France—Lance Armstrong clung to his fragile overall lead Thursday in one of the least punishing stages of the Tour de France, finishing in 29th place and reserving his energy for a vital upcoming race.

The 153.5-kilometer (95.2 mile) stage, a relatively flat and short trajectory along southern France from Narbonne to Toulouse, was won by Spanish rider Juan Antonio Flecha of iBanesto.com, competing in his first Tour. Armstrong finished the stage 42 seconds behind Flecha.

In the overall standings, Armstrong is 21 seconds ahead of his nearest rival, Alexandre Vinokourov of Kazakhstan. Vinokourov finished Thursday's stage in 30th place, in the same time as Armstrong.

Other key rivals who finished in the same time were 1997 winner Jan Ullrich in 22nd place, Spanish rider Francisco Mancebo in 23rd place and Iban Mayo of Spain in 33rd. American Tyler Hamilton—who has emerged as a hero of the race for competing with a fractured collarbone—finished 44th.

Armstrong, who rides for US Postal Service, will wear the overall leader's yellow jersey in the crucial individual time trial on Friday, a moment of truth when riders race alone against the clock.

But the slim lead that Armstrong has as he embarks on the second half of the cycling's showcase event is raising questions about whether the four-time champion can win a record-tying fifth title.

With key rivals nipping at his heels, Armstrong said Friday's stage may be the most important time trial that he has ever raced in the Tour. The 31-year-old Texan carefully scouted out the hilly 47-km (29.1-mile) stage before the Tour began.

"I like the course because there's a little hill near the end, but we'll have to see at the end because the wind direction might change," he said.

"The standings are very close," Armstrong conceded.

To keep rivals at bay, Armstrong also needs to do well in the Pyrenees mountains, four grueling stages of leg-crushing cycling that begin Saturday.

Vinokourov said he felt in top shape and was pleased with his performance so far.

"It gives my morale a boost ahead the race against the clock and the Pyrenees," he said.

Dutch cyclist Bram De Groot, riding for Rabobank, finished Thursday's stage in second place, and Spanish rider Isidro Nozal of ONCE-Eroski was third.

The 11th stage, devoid of treacherous climbs, gave Armstrong a chance to conserve his forces ahead of the time trial. *AP*

WILD, WILD OPEN

South African takes 1-shot lead as winds and quirky links send Tiger, Els reeling

FIJI'S Vijay Singh watches the flight of the ball after teeing off from the 16th on the first day of the British Open. REUTERS

SANDWICH, England—A lost ball by Tiger Woods. A triumphant return for Greg Norman. A stunning struggle for Ernie Els.

And by the way, who is Hennie Otto?

Meet the leader in the first round of a British Open that was as unpredictable as the quirky links on which it was played.

Sunshine, rain and a steady blast of wind off Sandwich Bay produced a slew of surprises, none more than the sight of Otto, a 27-year-old South African, making one long putt after another at Royal St. George's for a 3-under 68.

Otto, who had to qualify for the British Open earlier this week, took a one-stroke lead over Norman and Davis Love III after both of them bogeyed the 18th for a 69.

The only other players to break par were S.K. Ho and Fredrik Jacobson, who played bogey free despite 35 mph (56 kph) gusts late in the afternoon.

Otto was thrilled with the first tee time of the day—6:30 a.m. (0530 GMT)—because the forecast was for thunderstorms in the afternoon. He got to Royal St. George's and it was raining.

Go figure.

"You've got to relax and take what the course gives you," Otto said.

Royal St. George's certainly doled it out.

• Woods hit his opening tee shot in the right rough, and 25 officials scouring a patch of thick grass the size of a kiddie pool never found it. The lost ball led to a triple bogey, and he had to play the final four holes in 2-under just to shoot 73.

• Trying to become the first player in 20 years to defend his title, Els didn't make a birdie and opened with a 78, his worst round ever at the British Open.

AUSTRALIA'S Greg Norman lines up a putt on the 16th. REUTERS

• Four past major winners were among more than two dozen players who shot in the 80s. The most noteworthy was David Duval, who played well except for two triple bogeys and a quadruple bogey on his way to an 83.

• Colin Montgomerie got off easy. He tripped on his way to breakfast, injured his hand and withdrew after seven holes.

Equally surprising was Norman, even though he won 10 years ago when the British Open was last held at Royal St. George's.

Still, the Shark hasn't won in five years. That shock of blond hair is tinged with streaks of gray, and a few more wrinkles surround those piercing blue eyes. Norman, 48, has played only two tournaments this year while dealing with a bad back.

Is he back?

"If I get myself in position after the first two rounds, hopefully momentum will start to build," Norman said. "I think 69 is a good start to that momentum. I hope I can keep pushing it forward."

At times, it looked as if he never left, especially on the par-5 fourth. From 194 yards, Norman punched a 4-iron that scooted up the severe shelf of the green and trickled down the slope to 6 inches for a tap-in eagle.

"You've got to be able to feel comfortable with those shots," he said.

Love, who has never seriously contended in his favorite major, made only one mistake in an otherwise solid round. He played conservatively off the 18th tee with a 3-wood that left him a 4-iron to the green. He missed to the left, and failed to save par.

Tom Watson flirted with the lead for the second straight time in a major. He fell apart at the end, a double bogey-bogey finish for 71.

Also at even-par 71 was Charles Howell III, Fred Couples and Gary Evans, known best for losing his ball on the 17th hole at Muirfield last year.

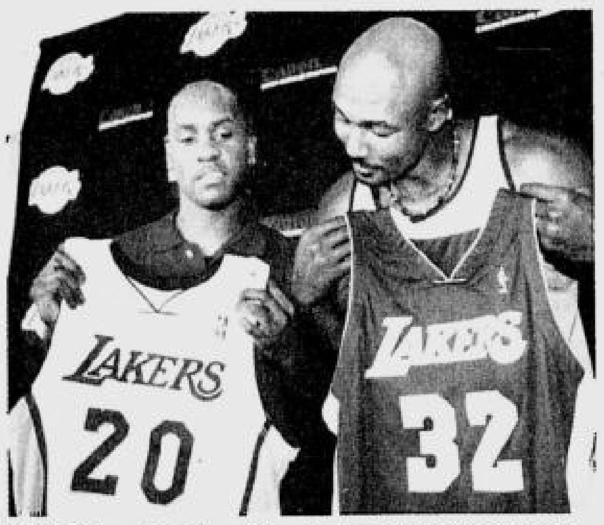
Woods can relate.

He knew he was in deep rough, and it wasn't long before he realized he was in deep trouble. As he walked up the first fairway, he saw a search party of two dozen people in a desperate attempt to find his ball.

"Did you guys see where it went?" Woods inquired of thousands of fans, who pointed him this way and that as his frustration grew.

Woods cursed as he got into a cart for the long ride back to the tee. He picked up two birdies, then gave them back with three consecutive bogeys by driving into bunkers and into more rough, one shot traveling some 15 yards. *AP*

Malone, Payton vow to crush Lakers' rivals



KARL Malone (right) and Gary Payton show off their new LA Lakers jerseys. REUTERS

LOS ANGELES—Mitch Kupchak was told he had an important telephone call, and the first words he heard were rather upsetting.

"Mitch, it's Karl. I've got good news and bad news. Which do you want first?"

After a brief silence, the Los Angeles Lakers' general manager sighed and replied: "The bad news."

"He said, 'Ha, ha, there is no bad news,'" Kupchak recalled with a smile Thursday at a news conference introducing the Lakers' free-agent signees Karl Malone and Gary Payton.

The Lakers hope that by lining up Malone and Payton with younger stars Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant, the joke will be on the rest of the NBA.

"We've got a mission," said Malone, the second-leading scorer in league history. "Anything less than a championship is going to be a disappointment for a lot of people.

"From our first pre-season game, we want to crush people."

The Lakers won three straight championships before losing to eventual champion San Antonio in the Western Conference semifinals.

Malone, 40 next week, and Payton, five years younger, signed at discount prices Tuesday—minutes after the free-agent signing period officially began.

Last week, the two veterans announced plans to play with the Lakers and turn down more money elsewhere. Kupchak took nothing for granted, but it turned out he didn't have to worry.

"When we gave our word, we gave our word," Payton said. "Everybody was coming with everything. We didn't listen."

Both said they spoke with former Lakers star Magic Johnson, now a member of the team's front office, and that influenced their decisions.

"What really made me say it was OK was when Karl made his statement, that he would sign if I would sign," Payton said.

He will be paid the midlevel exception of $4.917 million next year, while Malone gets the veteran's exception of $1.5 million.

Both could leave after next season but made it clear that wasn't likely.

"If we can get the championship, I don't think we are going to go anywhere," Payton said. "We did this to get a championship. We've done a lot of things in our career. To get a ring would be bigger." *AP*

Raptors sign Bateer; Pistons keep Hamilton

TORONTO—The Toronto Raptors acquired Chinese free-agent center Mengke Bateer Thursday, one of the NBA's Asian pioneers.

The second player from his country to play in the NBA, following Chinese international teammate Wang Zhizhi, Mengke won an NBA championship with San Antonio but played few games for the Spurs last season.

The 6-foot-11, 290-pound center averaged 0.8 points and 0.8 rebounds in 12 games for the Spurs after he spent the 2001-02 season with the Denver Nuggets.

"Bateer is an established international player who hasn't had an opportunity to prove himself at NBA level," Raptors general manager Glen Grunwald told reporters.

"We feel he can provide our team with needed size and strength in the middle." It was the third free-agent signing in two days for the Raptors, who acquired New Orleans Hornets' French forward Jerome Moiso and Cleveland Cavaliers guard Milt Palacio Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Richard Hamilton, who sparked Detroit into the National Basketball Association semifinals, signed a seven-year contract here Thursday worth a reported $63 million.

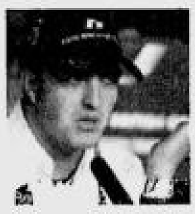
Hamilton, who will be paid $6.5 million next season according to the Detroit News, played all 82 games for the first time in his four-year career and averaged 19.7 points, a career-high 3.9 rebounds and 2.5 assists. *Reuters; AFP*

Ralf on fast lane for third straight win

SILVERSTONE, England—A showdown of Schumachers in the British Grand Prix could determine dominance at this point in the Formula One season.

Ralf Schumacher is seeking a third consecutive victory Sunday, and brother Michael is trying to rebound from two straight disappointing finishes.

Michael, a five-time series champion, leads his younger brother by only 11 points in the standings after Ralf's victories in the European Grand Prix and French Grand Prix. But the elder Schumacher knows things run in cycles.



R. SCHUMACHER

"You have your highs and lows. They are on the high, and we are not so much on the high at this point," Michael said. "And I think we can turn it around again."

Ralf took the pole in the European and French races, and teammate Juan Pablo Montoya finished second both times.

• Since the Monaco Grand Prix on June 1, when Montoya won, the Williams-BMW team has dominated the Ferraris of Michael and teammate Rubens Barrichello.

"So far we have been able to fight for the victory in every race," Michael said. "Probably the last two races that was not so much the case. But I am pretty optimistic we can fight for the victories from now on."

Rainy and cool conditions might put a damper on the Williams drivers' bid to stay hot. Ralf knows the wet conditions forecast for Sunday might not be good for his Michelin tires. *AP*

Halladay grabs 14th decision as Blue Jays outslug Red Sox

BOSTON—Roy Halladay won his 14th consecutive win and newcomer Bobby Kielty homered, had three hits and scored three runs to lead the Toronto Blue Jays past the Boston Red Sox 5-2 in the American League Thursday.

Halladay (14-2) tossed a complete game nine-hitter, allowing two runs with five strikeouts and no walks. It was his second complete game of the season and seventh of his career.

The Blue Jays pitcher now leads the majors in wins and is unbeaten in 16 starts since losing to the New York Yankees April 15.

HALLADAY: 14th straight decision. AP

Kielty was making his Toronto debut after being acquired for Shannon Stewart in a trade during the All-Star break. He had RBI singles in the second and fourth innings and later scored, then hit his 10th homer of the season in the sixth.

Reed Johnson produced a bases-loaded double in the fourth to blow open the game against starter Derek Lowe (10-4), who took the loss. Lowe lasted four innings, allowing four runs on seven hits with four strikeouts and one walk.

David Ortiz homered for the Red Sox.

In Baltimore, Jeff Conine thumped a go-ahead homer in the fourth inning to give the Orioles a 2-1 victory over the Anaheim Angels.

SPORTSWATCH

Mendoza BEST guest of honor

PAOLO Mendoza, Sta. Lucia Realty's crack pointguard, will be guest of honor during the opening ceremony of the Milo BEST SBP/Passerelle tournament at 7:30 a.m. tomorrow at the St. Benedict College courts in Alabang Hills. Mendoza, a BEST Center graduate and former SBP/Passerelle player of the UPIS team, will give an inspirational talk and make the ceremonial toss. Twenty-nine teams, led by defending SBP and Passerelle champions La Salle Greenhills and San Beda, respectively, will see action in the country's biggest youth basketball event. The other contenders are: SBP—San Beda, Marist School, Notre Dame of Greater Manila, Paref-Northfield School, Community of Learners, Don Bosco (Makati), Xavier School, Ateneo de Manila, Lourdes School (QC and Mandaluyong), JASMS, St. Mary's College, De La Salle Zobel and Dayspring School. Passerelle—School of St. Anthony, Lourdes School (QC and Mandaluyong), Don Bosco (Mandaluyong and Makati), Xavier School, UST, DLSZ, Ateneo de Manila, Notre Dame of Greater Manila, La Salle Greenhills, Dayspring School and Marist School.

RALLYE CHAMPS
Team Ultron's Art Guevara and Ivan Isada celebrate after ruling the Blaze Rallye in Tanay, Rizal recently. Flanking them are Team Bonus' Melissa Santiago and Dindo De Jesus (left) and Team Blaze's Robbie Hermoso and Vip Isada.

Age-group triathlon goes to Laguna

THE FOURTH leg of the Enervon National Age-group Triathlon series will be held in Sta. Cruz, Laguna tomorrow with former national titlist Michelle Montes-Ferrer and reigning national age-group champion Johnny Yanong tagged as favorites. Starting and ending at the San Luis Sports Complex, venue of the second edition of the Batang Pinoy National Championship, the 750-meter swim/20-km bike/5-km run event has attracted over 100 triathletes seeking berths in the national training and developmental pools and fitness buffs. Philippine Sports Commission coordinator for Laguna Joey Mosqueda will award specially designed PSC medals to the top 10 finishers in the male and female divisions of the competition supported by PSC, Province of Laguna, Speedo, Reliv and Monoc bike frames. Mandaue City's Eldy Banluta and Cebu City's Emmy Lyn Cuizon are the pacesetters after the Danao City, Davao City and Dumaguete City stops of the six-leg circuit (two each in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao).

MCC holds 2 tourneys tomorrow

METROPOLITAN Chess Club will hold the July edition of its Executives and Age-group tournament simultaneously at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow at Chowking-Remar Branch along Aurora Boulevard, Cubao, Quezon City. The executive section is open to businessmen or those holding supervisory or managerial positions in private or government firms or practicing their professions for at least ten years. The age-group is divided into two sections: kiddies (under-12) and juniors (under 16). Interested parties may proceed to the venue and register before the tournament starts. For details, call 826-8560 and 0916-8521069.

Manila wants 5th Batang Pinoy

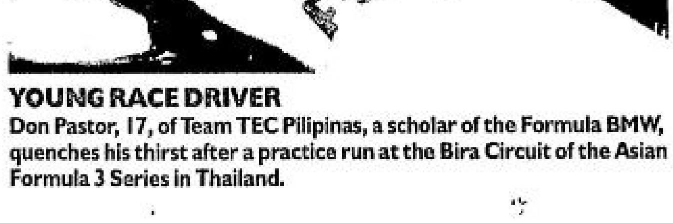
MANILA Sports Council (Masco) chief Arnold "Ali" Atienza yesterday reiterated the Big City's bid to host the fifth edition of the Philippine National Youth Games - Batang Pinoy scheduled in Jan. 2004. Atienza said Manila is more than prepared to host the Batang Pinoy and is formally proposing to the organizing PSC the inclusion of the 13-15 years age bracket to the event, which caters to children athletes aged 12 years and under. "The inclusion of the 13-15 age bracket would fill in the gap left between national age group competitions such as the Batang Pinoy and Palarong Pambansa," said Atienza. "And this would lure more of the country's youth to participate in the event, in our quest to discover fresh athletic talents and promote grassroots sports development." According to the son of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, it is ideal to have more year-round competitions on the national and regional levels. The Masco, under Atienza, has staged with resounding success the 2nd Manila Youth Games last April, where 8,000 children athletes from all over the Big City participated, with the inclusion of the 13-15 age bracket and the 12 years and under event.

RP athletes' equipment upgraded

THE PHILIPPINE Sports Commission and Fitness Design, Inc. have joined forces to upgrade the training equipment of national athletes preparing for the Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam this December. Fitness Design, Inc. has offered their services and expertise to repair and refurbish existing Cybex equipment at the Philippine Center for Sports Medicine free of charge. According to PSC chairman Eric Buhain, the equipment in the PCSM are two decades old and have more than 800 athletes using them. "It has certainly had its share of national athletes' beating." "It is our way of giving back to our athletes who work hard to represent the country here and abroad," said Doming Juan Jr., managing director of Fitness Design, Inc.

Camp Tinio HS booters triumph

CABANATUAN CITY—Camp Tinio High School edged Julia Ortiz Luiz High via penalty shootout, 4-3, to bag the Nueva Ecija title in the Red Ribbon Bakeshop Under-14 Football Festival hedl recently at the provincial field here. Jayson Londerio and Nelson Duldulao converted back-to-back penalty shots to give the Camp Tinio High boys the victory. Kevin Acerado and Robin Santiago scored the two other Camp Tinio High markers. Odysseus Valdez, John Carlo Iglesia and Marc Jayson Menzero produced Julia Ortiz Luiz High's goals. Camp Tinio Elementary School banked on Rosel Cirilo's goal in the 49th minute to shade Lupao High, 1-0, and settle for third spot.



YOUNG RACE DRIVER
Don Pastor, 17, of Team TEC Pilipinas, a scholar of the Formula BMW, quenches his thirst after a practice run at the Bira Circuit of the Asian Formula 3 Series in Thailand.

INVT'L BADMINTON

Divers continue rise

DIVE Shoppe streaked to its fifth win Thursday night and advanced to the semifinals of the first Sportshouse Corporate and Celebrity Cup at the SM Megamall Atrium.

The Ronald Magnaye-mentored recreational divers who are playing out of Aguinaldo Badminton Club defeated Asian Development Bank, 4-1, in the quarterfinals Thursday night. Dive Shoppe will play against the winner between Nokia and Bingo Bonanza Corporation.

"This is the first major tournament that the team has joined. Our goal is to reach the quarterfinals and now that we are in the semifinals, we'll do our best to be in the finals," said Magnaye.

Teng Dayan and Alma Bringas outplayed Ces Tuason and Guia de Guzman, 11-3, 11-6, while Dave Santos and Glenn Molino downed Indu Bhushan and Arnold Jalandoni, 15-3, 15-13, in the ladies and men's doubles 35 years and above divisions. Gina Flores and Jhona Magnaye asserted their supremacy over Rose Lafuente and Hazel Verian, 11-2, 11-4, in the ladies doubles 35 years and below category.

INQUIRER SVP David Valdes in action against the ADB shuttlers.

Chris Tabungar and Jager Nave scored the lone point for ADB when they took the men's doubles 35 years and below class over Jingle Chan and Jeh Gloria, 15-5, 15-12, before Dive Shoppe won the mixed open doubles division courtesy of Willy and Emma Agbulos, 11-0, 11-3. Crossover-HSBC routed Procter and Gamble Alpha, 5-0, to also secure a semifinal berth.

Christine Magsusi and Theresa Miranda stamped their class over Winnie Lu and Aiza Yap, 11-1, 11-2 in the ladies doubles 35 years and below class, Mac Saldua and Paolo Magpale clobbered Anton Diaz and Rommel Ong, 15-6, 15-4, in the men's doubles 35 years and below division while Ginggoy Lotho and Marge Maceda prevailed over Camille Lorenzo and Vince Dizon, 9-11, 11-8, 11-2, in the mixed open doubles category.

Crossover-HSBC's first two points came from the 35 years and above division following the walkover wins of Rose Tantoco and Angel Yu over Luz Lopez and Gigi Saluna, 11-0, 11-0.

Philracom summons MJCI officials

THE PHILIPPINE Racing Commission (Philracom) has asked top officials of the Manila Jockey Club Inc. (MJCI) to present a contingency plan to avert a repeat of the cancellation of scheduled horse races at the San Lazaro Leisure Park (SLLP) in Carmona, Cavite.

Philracom chair Jaime Dilag and commissioner and concurrent executive director Eduardo Jose met with MJCI president Alfonso Reyno Jr. Thursday to work out a solution that could be implemented by MJCI to salvage its weekend race schedule.

"We understand that MJCI chief Atty. Reyno has already taken steps to install a new 2,500 KVA generator at the SLLP to service the power requirements of the club for its weekend program, in place of its existing power generators which accidentally bogged down last Wednesday," said Dilag.

The stoppage of one of MJCI's three power generators caused a major power breakdown that also affected its stand-by power supply, resulting to the cancellation of races Wednesday and Thursday.

JVC tilt Aug. 25

THE 2003 JVC Open Badminton Championships get underway Aug. 25 at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati.

Registration for the week-long championships is ongoing, according to the IMG, the organizer of the tournament held under the auspices of the Philippine Badminton Association.

For inquiries, call 0917-5288970 (Nelson Asuncion), 0918-5094845 (Joann Enriquez), 751-6751; 751-6752; 751-6754.

The event will be launched in a press conference on July 23, 12 p.m. at the Dusit Hotel in Makati.

Events on tap in the championships, sponsored for the third straight year by electronics giant JVC, are the juniors (14-under and 18-under), elite, celebrity, seniors and corporate with P20,000 and P15,000 staked in the doubles and singles, respectively, of the premier elite division.

A minimum of 8 players is required in the corporate category. Deadline for registration is on Aug. 15 at 5 p.m.

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ROTRICE Ashlee Lavalan of PTC (right) parries the kick of Karla Jane Alava of Rizal High School in their match (Grade School Girls division) yesterday. Lavalan won. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

BEST OF THE BEST

Realista stuns Manalo

AGGRESSIVENESS paid dividends for Michael Angelo Realista Thursday as he stunned defending champion Carlo Manalo of Team Delta and barged into the junior men's lightweight finals of Samsung's Best of the Best taekwondo championships at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati City.

Stalking Manalo throughout their three-round fight, Realista of Cebu won by superiority after their bout ended in a 2-2 tie and arranged a title showdown with Teamsports' Zaldy Bautista Jr.

Three other gold medalists last year—welterweight Brix Ramos, lightweight Sarah Joy Arellano and middleweight Esther Marie Singson—hurdled their respective rivals to remain in the title hunt.

Ramos proved too much for DPS' Mad Palma, winning 6-0. He will meet UST's Gershon Bautista in tomorrow's finals of the tourney organized by the Philippine Taekwondo Association, managed by IMG, sponsored by Samsung and supported by Philippine Star, Accel, Colours, Kix, Ayala Center and 103.5 K-Lite.

Arellano, gold medalist in the New Face of the Year and bronze winner in the all-women's championships early this year, beat Dragon Heart's Lilac Mangondili, 4-2, while Singson, gold medalist in the all-women's competition, outclassed Mhiezle Khae Crumrine, 6-2.

Arellano will face Bulacan's Karen Ong, 7-3 victor over Russelle Jean Zamora, while Singson will go up against Jan Pacquing, 5-2 winner over Trisha Jane Galang.

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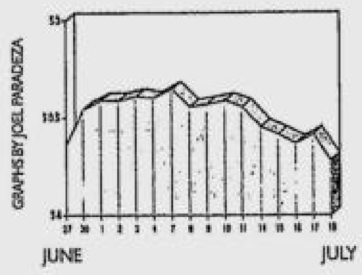

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As of 5 p.m., July 18, 2003

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STOCK MARKET

Shares close 0.85% higher

SHARE prices closed 0.85 percent higher yesterday on further signs that the domestic economy is set for a recovery in the second half, dealers said.

They said the government's improving fiscal performance, which shows revenues exceeding targets, suggested that more public funds could be made available in the second half to help pump-prime the economy.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose 10.79 points to 1,284.99, having traded in a very narrow range between 1,279.81 and 1,285.62.

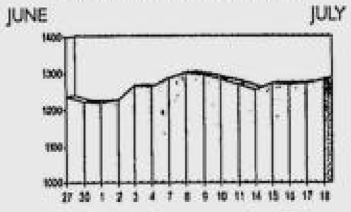
Gainers outnumbered losers 53 to 15, with 34 stocks unchanged.

Volume rose to 990.87 million shares worth P877.83 million from 337.46 million shares worth P771.24 million on Thursday.

The all-shares index was down up 0.62 points at 738.45.

"The market is sort of convinced about the government's improving fiscal management as it not only beat the target but beat it by a very wide margin," said Andrew Long of ATR-Kim Eng Securities. *AFP*

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Imports rose 12.2% in May; 5-month trade gap widens

By Doris C. Dumlao

PHILIPPINE imports rose 12.2 percent from a year earlier to $3.3 billion in May, boosting hopes of a more robust economic performance for the second half of the year.

The May figure was a reversal of the 7.6-percent drop in imports to $3.19 billion in April, the National Statistics Office said in a statement.

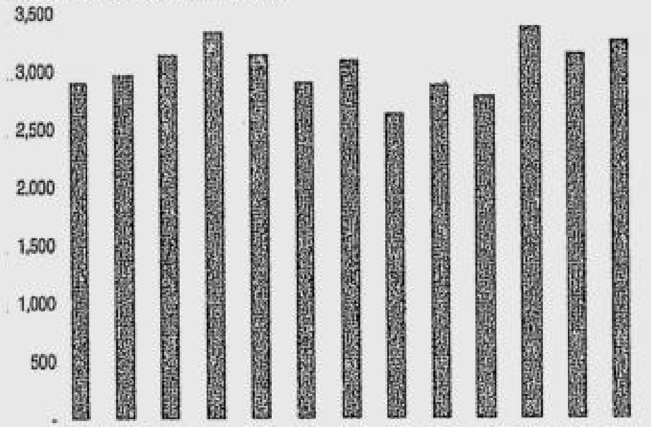
This pushed the Philippine trade deficit 18-fold to $503 million in May alone compared with the $28-million deficit in the same month last year.

The total trade deficit for the first five months of 2003 amounted to $1.64 billion compared to a deficit of $99 million in the same period last year as expenditures for imported goods expanded by 12.8-percent to $15.65-billion compared to the 1.7-percent growth in export earnings to $14 billion.

The NSO also said that imports from January to May rose 12.8 percent over last year to $15.65 billion.

TOTAL IMPORTS

May 2002 to May 2003, in million US$



The rise in merchandise imports in May after the decline in April suggested that economic activity has begun to pick up, said David Cohen, chief macroeconomic forecaster of SP/MMS International research agency.

"It boosts expectations of an economic rebound in the second half of 2003 following an expectedly weak second quarter," he said.

"The numbers are reasonably encouraging, suggesting a pickup in economic activity. (The rise) is in line with increased global trade after the SARS outbreak was contained and the US-Iraq war ended," Cohen said.

Import levels are closely monitored by economists as a large proportion of the Philippines' imports are components needed to manufacture exports such as computer parts and electronic goods.

A bigger trade deficit makes it harder for the Philippines to build up reserves of foreign currency needed to pay for key imported items such as crude oil and rice.

The government has expressed confidence the country's economy would expand between 4.2 and 5.2 percent this year, after growing by 4.4 percent in 2002.

Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said offshore orders were coming back and that the local export sector could still meet the 5-percent growth targeted for this year, led by the 10-percent projected growth in electronics shipment.

Electronic products, used as inputs for the country's electronics export industry, were the country's biggest import item, accounting for 46.2 percent of all imports in May.

Electronic imports hit $1.53 billion in May, an 8.9-percent increase compared to the same period last year, the NSO said.

Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials were the second largest, accounting for $400.79 million or 12.1 percent of imports in May. *With* INQUIRER *wire reports*

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Talks of the Tan

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

ONLY on the second day in a three-day schedule, talks on a new air treaty between the Philippines and the United States bogged down.

The breaking point, based on reports, was the issue on the so-called "7th freedom." This "freedom" the US side wanted US airlines to enjoy in the Philippines.

Only then, if the RP panel granted the "freedom" to US airlines outright, would the US panel even begin to consider other proposals on the table.

If the talks were a boxing match, before the US panel could even agree to ring the opening bell, the US panel wanted the Philippine panel to take an uppercut in the jaw.

* * *

NOW, in the airline business, that "7th freedom" has nothing to do with human rights. It is not a principle or something written in the Bill of Rights.

Anybody who was denied such a freedom is not even entitled to a minute share in that P36 billion from the Marcos wealth.

Actually, air treaties between countries rank the type of business which airlines can do in each countries as if the business is theirs by birth. It is a ... well, "freedom."

It is just a business concession, in reality, and it is ranked like the grade levels in school, i.e. 1st, 2nd, etc. And so in effect the US panel wanted an on-the -spot graduation.

* * *

AT stake in the US panel's bid for the "7th freedom" was the huge air international cargo business in the Philippines, such as imported cellular telephones and chocolates.

The "7th freedom" would allow US airlines to carry cargo between the Philippines and any third country—meaning, not even the US, which is their home base.

Under such an arrangement, in effect, the US airlines can tap the air cargo business in the Philippines as if our country is also their own country.

And everybody thought that the colonial days already ended. Well, US airlines are hard-up nowadays. They are going bankrupt. They need new areas to conquer.

* * *

BUT from what I gathered, the RP panel stood firm on the issue of the "7th freedom." They were said to have waxed nationalistic in the talks.

Heading it was DOTC Undersecretary Edward Harun Pagunsan, whom some self-proclaimed "activists" attacked as being inexperienced. As it turned out, Pagunsan carried the ball well for us.

Alright, he supposedly told the US panel, giving the US airlines the "7th freedom" is good for us. Unfortunately, by giving it to the US airlines, for the sake of economic gains, this cute administration of Gloriaetta must violate the Constitution.

If you are the US panel, no way you can respond to that. I think I want to treat this Pagunsan to a bottle of premium *lambanog*.

* * *

ACTUALLY, the US panel was correct in its analysis. Giving the US airlines the "7th freedom" is good for Philippine business. The economic benefits are tremendous.

But the problem is the Constitution. It puts a limit on foreign ownership of any company in public utility such as the airlines.

From what I gathered, the US Embassy in Manila, plus some local lawyers who were helping the US panel, even verified the claim of the Philippine panel.

Blocked by a constitutional issue, obviously, the talks could not move forward. As I said, before anything else, the US panel wanted the "7th freedom," period.

* * *

MAYBE the US panel only wanted to, well, "legitimize" the operation of the US air cargo firms Fedex and UPS.

Those two are already operating in the Philippines, carrying cargo to and fro, although they are foreign companies. In short, they are violating the Constitution.

One of these days, who knows, anybody can just question the legitimacy of their operations here. As it is, both Fedex and UPS are just being tolerated.

The reason is economics. Their operation gave local business more choices for doing its air shipment. It seems economics and the Constitution clash against each other.

* * *

FOR if you are the RP panel, how do you defend the constitutionality of giving US airlines that "7th freedom," for instance, in a Senate investigation?

Or how do you face the public? The talks were actually greeted with rallies and protests, which saddened US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone.

He said so during the party in his residence at Forbes Park, which he hosted for the members of both panels before the talks.

Moreover, with the Supreme Court acting the way it did lately, you can never tell what they will do to the RP panel. I supposed none of them wants to go to jail.

* * *

A WAY out for the RP panel, which they pointed out during the talks, was for US airlines to go into joint ventures with local groups for the cargo business.

That is precisely the idea behind the constitutional limitation on foreign ownership of public utility companies.

In effect, both the US and the local airlines can share the economic benefits of the Philippine side's giving away the "7th freedom."

That is good for local airlines which are also losing money heavily. They need help from the government in getting a fair deal in the talks.

* * *

LOCAL airlines did not get from the government some outright financial assistance which other countries gave to their airlines.

At the very least, the local airlines must get some protection from the government against the invasion of foreign airlines.

Talk of the town is, even if the local airlines are owned by filthy rich guys like John Gokongwei and Lucio Tan, the US-RP talks can be crucial to the locals' survival.

After all, if the Philippine panel gives in to the US panel's position this time, other countries will definitely want the same arrangement.

That will be the death of the local airline industry. And then what?

* * *

BUT the problem was, even before the RP panel could even start to hope to discuss such a proposal in the talks, it had to accept the US panel's position on the "7th freedom."

That, as I said, was the US panel's bottom line. That or nothing! There was no room for the old "give and take" approach in the talks.

For instance, could the US also grant local airlines the freedom to fly within the US, such as the Guam-Hawaii route, which PAL has wanted a long time ago?

No, it is impossible, because it is against the US law. See, it's the same thing. So how do they break the impasse? I know—it calls for another presidential visit.

Smart seen posting P12.6-B profit for '03

By Abigail L. Ho

CONTINUED strong subscriber take-up is likely to give Smart Communications Inc. a full-year net income of P12.6 billion on revenues of P44.7 billion, the local arm of stockbrokerage UBS said.

UBS earlier estimated Smart's 2003 net income at P11.4 billion, but in its July 17 report upgraded this to P12.6 billion because of a historic 995,000 new subscribers (net of churn or disconnections) during the second quarter of the year.

The cellular giant has been posting an average of 650,000 net subscriber additions over the past nine quarters.

"We believe that Smart's results supports our view that penetration is maturing at higher levels and that Smart is able to attain strong growth at minimal cost," UBS said.

Manuel Pangilinan, president and chief executive of Smart parent firm Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., said the cellular service provider's revenues would likely exceed those of PLDT's fixed line operations by the end of the year.

During the first half, Smart posted revenues of P22.4 billion, while PLDT's fixed line generated P22.5 billion. On the profit side, Smart raked in P6.1 billion, while PLDT's fixed line chalked up only P629 million.

While analysts earlier predicted a slowdown in subscriber take-up in the cellular market, both Smart and fierce rival Globe Telecom Inc. went against the projections and posted strong growth in subscriber numbers.

There are now close to 18 million cellular subscribers in the country, around 10.3 million of which are Smart subscribers. As of end-March, Globe had more than 7.1 million subscribers.

Earlier projections for a 25-percent penetration rate by 2005 have been revised because of these market trends.

Globe president and chief executive Gerardo Ablaza Jr. earlier said the country's cellular penetration rate could hit 30 percent of the population by 2005.

Pangilinan also said the 25-percent penetration rate could be hit by the end of the year "if not sooner."

"We added 995,000 subscribers in the second quarter. This is a historic high, considering that the second quarter is usually slow," he said.

Last year, during the same period, Smart had 277,000 net subscriber additions.

SEC cracks down on delinquent, inactive firms

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission yesterday announced it was poised to revoke the registration of more than 240,000 corporations for failing to meet reportorial requirements.

In a statement, the SEC said records showed that 243,897 corporations did not file their financial statements for the years 1997-2001 while 229,314 corporations did not file their general information sheet for the same period.

In keeping with SEC Memorandum Circular No. 4-2003, the SEC's company registration and monitoring department started publishing in the INQUIRER orders asking the companies to show cause why their registration should not be revoked.

The orders were published on the following dates this year: April 25, June 2 and July 11. A fourth show-cause order covering delinquent companies registered between 1985 to 1995 was forthcoming, the corporate watchdog said.

Under the show-cause orders, the SEC gave the corporations 30 days from date of publication to appear before the CRMD's law and regulation division, update their files and settle corresponding fines or penalties, otherwise the companies' respective certificates of registration would be deemed revoked.

The SEC noted that, to date, less than a dozen delinquent corporation have appeared before the CRMD since the first show-cause order was published in April.

However, CRMD director Benito Cataran pointed out that many of the delinquent corporations were known to be active; for instance, a good number of them were schools and universities known to be operating.

For this reason, the SEC has extended the 30-day deadline for corporations covered in the April 25 and June 2 show-cause orders in order to allow for the possibility that many corporations failed to read the orders when these were published. Likewise, the SEC said individual show-cause letters would be sent to corporations known to be active.

However, the SEC yesterday strongly warned that corporations that persisted in ignoring the show-cause orders would have their certificates of registration revoked before the end of this year.

It said that the drive to revoke the registration of delinquent and inactive corporations was the result of its increased compliance and monitoring efforts in recent years. Last year, the SEC revoked the registration of 27,982 delinquent and inactive corporations.

The SEC said this year it would start the implementation of the compliance and monitoring and evaluation system, which would provide an automated facility to monitor the compliance of registered entities with government laws and regulations.

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INTEREST RATES

July 18, 2003-MART1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 18-Jul-03	MART1 17-Jul-03
1 Month	6.25	6.2714
3 Months	6.2607	6.2857
6 Months	7.2518	7.2696
1 Year	7.8703	7.8687
2 Years	8.71	8.7667
3 Years	9.3133	9.4467
4 Years	9.8417	9.965
5 Years	10.088	10.1903
7 Years	10.95	11.0363
10 Years	11.371	11.4208
20 Years	11.9408	11.9492
25 Years	12.315	12.36

SOURCE : MART/BLOOMBERG

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 18, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco De Oro Univ. Bank	19	19.5	19	19.5	275,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	48	48.5	48	48	460,800
Citystate Savings Bank	15	15	15	15	4,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	35	35	34.5	35	62,800
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	202,400
Philippine National Bank	24.5	24.75	24.5	24.75	87,400
Phil. Savings Bank	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	20,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.5	14	13.5	14	40,500
Security Bank Corp.	18	18.5	18	18.5	279,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	21.25	21.5	21.25	21.5	13,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.52	1.56	451,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	3	3	3	3	2,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1425	1425	1425	1425	610
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.46	1.64	1.38	1.5	6,377,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1050	1050	1050	1050	40
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	22	22.25	22	22.25	48,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.74	0.74	0.7	0.7	3,970,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	710	725	710	715	117,510
Ipeople Inc.	0.86	0.92	0.86	0.92	330,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.046	0.065	0.046	0.0575	91,300,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.027	0.034	0.027	0.03	40,800,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.17	40,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.57	0.59	0.57	0.57	8,670,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	575	585	575	575	580,110
Ivantage Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	150,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.015	0.013	0.015	250,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	12.5	12.75	12.5	12.75	535,700
Manila Electric Co. B	17.75	18.5	17.75	18.25	2,103,200
Petron Corp.	2.28	2.3	2.26	2.26	3,192,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	35,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	1,890,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.46	1.5	1.46	1.5	250,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.9	2.95	2.9	2.95	656,000
William,Gothong & Aboitiz	2.18	2.18	2.18	2.18	10,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.38	0.41	0.38	0.41	350,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.5	30,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	4,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	20,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.85	2.85	78,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4	4	4	4	5,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.75	18	17.75	17.75	74,300
RFM Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	30,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	50,000
San Miguel Corp. A	51.5	52	51.5	52	129,200
San Miguel Corp. B	59.5	60	58.5	60	267,100
Universal Robina Corp.	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	1,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.23	0.27	0.23	0.27	630,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.33	310,000
Ayala Corp.	4.85	4.85	4.8	4.85	23,449,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	25,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.035	0.037	0.035	0.036	18,500,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	5,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2	2.02	1.96	2	125,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.5	9.5	9.4	9.4	102,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.72	0.79	0.71	0.78	43,460,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.12	800,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.17	0.18	950,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.23	0.235	0.23	0.235	1,200,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.08	1.2	1.08	1.18	2,000,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	17.25	17.75	17.25	17.5	816,800
Ionics Inc.	1.74	1.94	1.74	1.88	5,364,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.74	1.74	1.72	1.74	124,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.011	0.013	0.011	0.013	12,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.76	0.77	3,360,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.34	12,500,000
Music Corp.	0.46	0.49	0.46	0.48	20,440,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.09	0.15	0.09	0.12	260,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	190,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.36	0.4	0.36	0.36	990,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	10,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Picop Resources Inc.	0.055	0.06	0.055	0.06	800,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15	15	15	15	20,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.6	0.65	0.6	0.64	7,170,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.43	0.44	0.43	0.44	550,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.27	0.3	0.27	0.28	1,470,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	510,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	22.5	22.5	22.5	22.5	192,100
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.0022	0.0026	0.0022	0.0026	45,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6	6.2	6	6.1	5,098,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.2	0.25	0.2	0.25	470,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	200,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.19	7,790,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.245	0.25	0.245	0.245	4,950,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.16	1.22	1.16	1.16	9,615,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	50,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.6	0.63	0.6	0.63	30,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.145	0.185	0.145	0.185	8,400,000
City & Land Developers	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	10,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	1,090,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.2	7,959,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	200,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	150,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	200,000
Omico Corp.	0.0036	0.0038	0.0036	0.0038	114,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	3,580,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	700,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.014	22,500,000
Oriental Pet. & Mln. A	0.0034	0.0034	0.0032	0.0032	142,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	100,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	38,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	400,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	50,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	8,276,050	56,227,610.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	614,634,020	722,080,150.00
PRO	45,662,000	96,465,870.00
Mining	118,830,000	1,596,700.00
OIL	203,050,000	1,262,200.00
GRAND TOTALS :	990,452,070	877,632,530.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	459.48	UP 3.85
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,840.03	UP 6.32
PRO	557.29	UP 16.14
Mining	1,082.82	DOWN 4.34
OIL	1.37	UNCH 0.00
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	738.45	DOWN 0.62
Composite	1,284.99	UP 10.79

NO. OF ADVANCES: 53; NO. OF DECLINES: 15; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 34; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 102; NO. OF TRADES: 3,648

DISCLOSURES

STARTING July 21, 5.3 million common shares of SQL Wizard Inc. previously locked up will be tradable.

* * *

HIGHLANDS Prime Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 26, 3 p.m. at the Manila Room B of Makati Shangri-La Hotel. Stockholders of record as of July 31 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Estates Corp. disclosed that it formed a nominations committee composed of Dee Hua Gatchalian, Arthur Lopez and Kenneth Gatchalian. Candidates for the position of independent directors are Lopez and Lisandro Abadia.

* * *

Except for its duly disclosed buy-back shares program, PCI Leasing and Finance Inc. has no other information that can explain the 50-percent increase in its share price that rose from P0.99 to P1.48 per share. ***Compiled by Maricar Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

July 18, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.892777	1.000000	53.593000
Japan	Yen	0.007515	0.008418	0.451100
United Kingdom	Pound	1.425408	1.596600	85.566600
Hongkong	Dollar	0.114469	0.128217	6.871500
Switzerland	Franc	0.651235	0.729448	39.093300
Canada	Dollar	0.638611	0.715308	38.335500
Singapore	Dollar	0.506684	0.567537	30.416000
Australia	Dollar	0.582183	0.652103	34.948200
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.368172	2.652590	142.160300
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.238074	0.266667	14.291500
Brunei	Dollar	0.505250	0.565931	30.329900
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000108	0.000121	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.021430	0.024004	1.286400
UAE	Dirham	0.243078	0.272272	14.591900
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.120100	60.029500
Argentina	Peso	0.320566	0.359066	19.243400
Brazil	Real	0.312816	0.350385	18.778200
Denmark	Kroner	0.134491	0.150643	8.073400
India	Rupee	0.019354	0.021678	1.161800
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.234973	0.263193	14.105300
Mexico	New Peso	0.086055	0.096390	5.165800
New Zealand	Dollar	0.519963	0.582411	31.213200
Norway	Kroner	0.119363	0.133699	7.165300
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015491	0.017352	0.929900
South Africa	Rand	0.115627	0.129514	6.941000
Korea	Won	0.000758	0.000849	0.045500
Sweden	Kroner	0.108360	0.121374	6.504800
Syria	Pound	0.021257	0.023810	1.276000
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026021	0.029146	1.562000
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000560	0.000627	0.033600

S&P expected to maintain RP credit rating

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE COUNTRY'S success in taming the budget deficit during the second quarter did not merit an improvement in its sovereign credit rating from Standard & Poor's.

Wire reports quoted S&P as saying that it was sticking to its rating on the Philippines even after the government had reported that it was able to contain the budget deficit well below the ceiling for the third straight month in June.

The fiscal gap stood at P79.6 billion in the first half against the ceiling of P102.2 billion. The deficit in June reached only P4.2 billion, the lowest since December 2001.

Corazon Guidote, executive director of the government's Investor Relations Office, said S&P was entitled to its assessment of the country's achievements.

"But the market continues to react positively as evidenced by the tightening of the spreads on Philippine bonds," said Guidote.

S&P downgraded in April its rating on sovereign debts to "BB" from "BB plus." London-based Fitch Ratings handed down a similar downgrade in June.

Rating firms wanted to see sustainability in the country's fiscal consolidation. S&P will assess its ratings on the Philippines later this year but the outlook on sovereign debts remained stable.

HSBC, in its latest economic assessment of the Philippines, said Moody's Investors Service was expected to downgrade its rating on Philippine foreign debts within the year due to political jitters arising from the May 2004 elections.

Moody's, however, has been steady in its rating on the Philippines. It downgraded its outlook on the sovereign local currency rating to negative in January even after S&P and Fitch changed their stable outlook to negative in October and November last year.

Analysts said financial markets felt that President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision not to run for reelection had injected a degree of uncertainty on the country's prospects of putting in place important reforms.

"Moody's Ba1, stable rating for the Philippines, however, cannot be justified by the fundamentals. Hence, we expect a downward adjustment in the second half of 2003," said HSBC in its regional monthly update called "The View."

Government officials, however, said that Moody's had not given any indication of any rating action and that assessments of other groups were mere speculation.

A downgrade in the ratings normally pushes the cost of the government's borrowings. In the case of the Philippines, however, the effect of the downgrades had already been discounted, according to officials. This enabled the country to continue to access the market at favorable rates.

HSBC said that despite the recent success of the government in taming the deficit and even if the gap was kept within the P202-billion ceiling for the year, it has yet to implement a credible program to reverse the rising public sector debt.

By the end of 2003, the public sector debt will be equivalent to more than 80 percent of GDP.

The investment bank shared the concerns of Fitch that Ms Macapagal's decision not to run in 2004 made her "already embattled administration even less effective at a time when strong leadership is needed to implement policies that could result in faster economic activity and poverty reduction."

"More troubling, a weak mandate is likely to be awarded to whomever wins next year's presidential election. This suggests that the Philippines is unlikely to be able to seriously tackle the deteriorating public sector finance."

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Investment bank sees RP meeting targets

THE PHILIPPINES is expected to meet its fiscal, foreign exchange and economic growth targets this year although the sustainability of short-term gains remained clouded with political uncertainties in view of the 2004 presidential elections, according to investment bank UBS Warburg.

The investment bank has projected that the country's gross domestic product growth in 2004 would hit 4.5 percent, or slightly below the government's 4.9-percent target.

This year, UBS said the country would likely meet its 4.2-percent GDP growth target and contain its budget deficit within the P202-billion ceiling. The investment bank saw the peso staying at the 53-$1 by yearend.

"However, we expect the central bank to remain on guard and to support the exchange rate if needed. We also believe the peso should benefit from a strengthening yen in the second half," said UBS in its Asian Economic Monitor for the month.

UBS added that with currency stability still the central bank's key policy target, it would not rule out a tightening in monetary policies "if the peso were to come under renewed pressure."

The increasing deficit in the balance-of-payments is a risk to the peso's stability although dollar inflow from overseas workers' remittances tends to offset it.

As of June, the BOP deficit increased to $616 million against a surplus of $1.729 billion a year ago while offshore remittances stood at $3.29 billion in May, higher than the $2.99 billion in the previous year.

"Looking ahead, we expect to see further widening of the deficit as the government's external borrowing program for the whole of 2003 may be cut," said UBS.

UBS was less optimistic on exports and the current account position following a contraction in export receipts in April. *Clarissa S. Batino*

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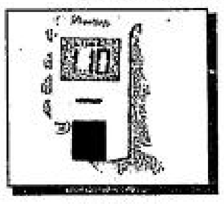

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BPI to start talks on sale of P10B in acquired assets

BANK of the Philippine Islands has decided to negotiate with one of the three foreign groups that offered to buy P10 billion worth of acquired assets.

The bank made the decision after evaluating the bids of the three groups. It, however, did not identify the group it had chosen.

The three that submitted bids were investment firms Goldmann Sachs, Lehmann Brothers and Merrill Lynch, which were earlier allowed to conduct due diligence on the assets and to submit bids.

A BPI official said the foreign groups were interested in taking advantage of the incentives provided by the Special Purpose Vehicle Act to asset management companies.

The Asian Development Bank and International Finance Corp., the private investment arm of the World Bank, have expressed interest in teaming up with the investor that would buy BPI's acquired assets, that include pieces of property in Metro Manila. *Elena R. Torrijos*

RCBC, Metrobank register profits

By Elena R. Torrijos

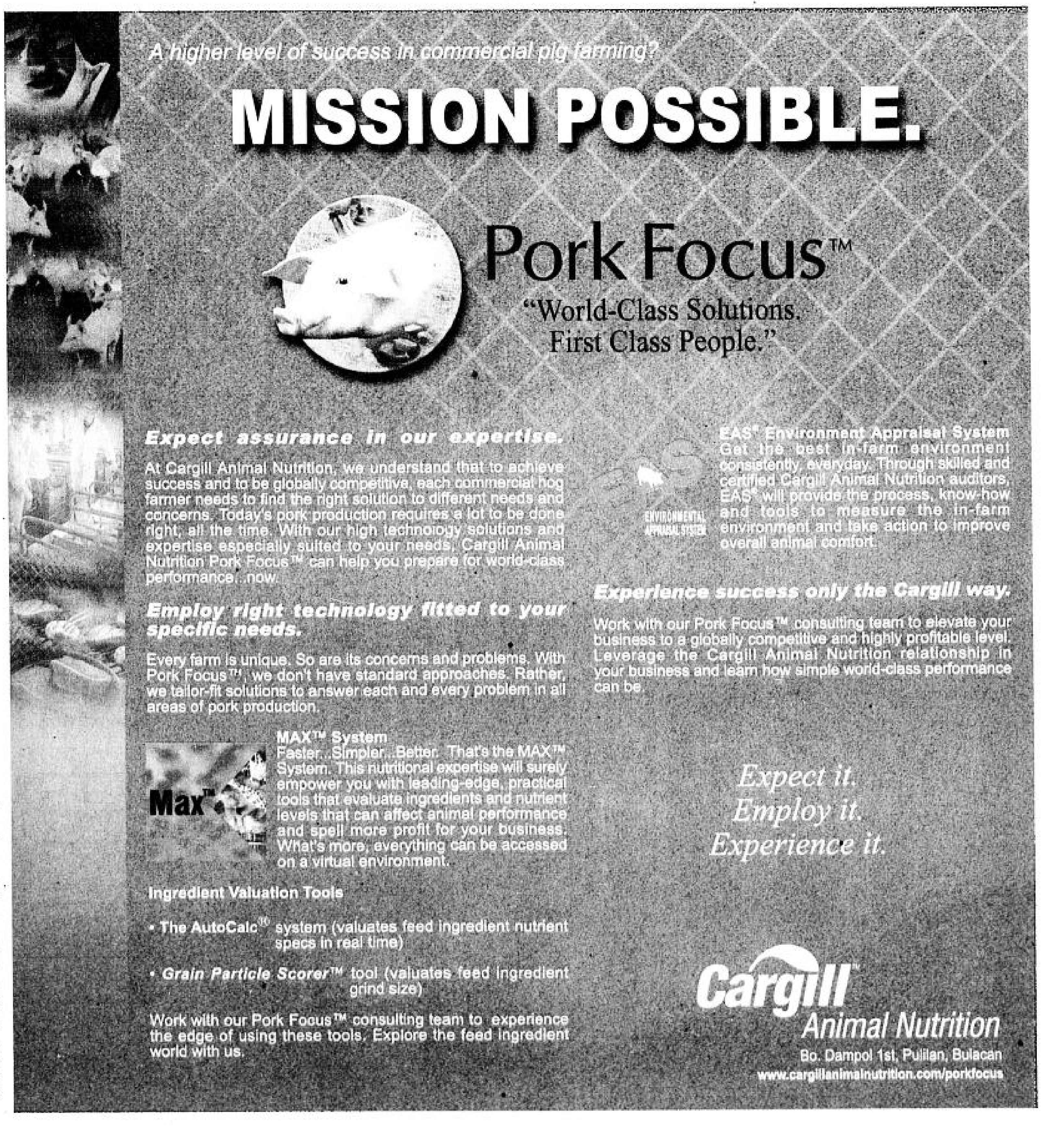
RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp. made more than P1 billion in profit while Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. earned between P1.2 billion and P1.3 billion in the first half of the year.

RCBC's first half profit this year is double the P508 million it posted in the comparative period last year while that of Metrobank is slightly lower than last year's P1.54 billion.

RCBC corporate vice chair and acting chief executive Cesar Virata confirmed this while Metrobank executive vice president and chief finance officer Alfredo Javellana II declined to confirm the figures. Javellana, however, expressed confidence that the bank would meet its full year profit target of P3 billion. Last year, Metrobank made P2.5 billion in profit.

An industry source said trading games had boosted the two banks' performance in the first half.

In the meantime, an industry source said Metrobank should issue $125 million in 10-year unsecured subordinated notes, which qualify as tier-two capital, in the next two to three weeks. The bank has the option to increase the size of the issue by $75 million to $200 million, around $100 million of which would be used to pay the bank's tier-two issue in 2001.



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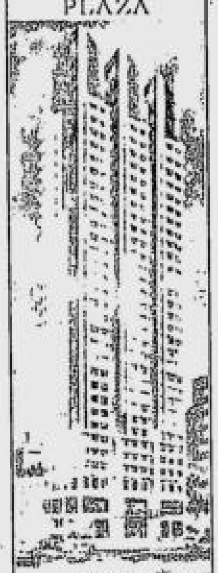

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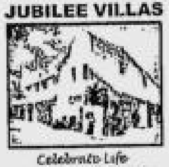

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE RAMON VILLANUEVA HAS BEEN EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED AMONG HIS HEIRS AS PER DOC. NO. 314; PAGE NO. 69; BOOK NO. II-A; SERIES OF 2003 UNDER NOTARY PUBLIC ATTY. LUISITO MIRADOR OF BINAN LAGUNA
PDI-JULY 19, 26 & AUG. 2, 2003

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given on the lost Club Filipino Cert. #1103. If no contest received new certificate will be issued.
(PDI - July 5, 12 & 19, 2003)

PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONAL

Thank you St. Jude CVS Praise & Glory to Sacred Heart of Jesus

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Philippine Overseas Employment Administration

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor & Employment
POEA Bldg., Ortigas Avenue, Cor. EDSA,
Mandaluyong City 1501
P.O. Box 175 Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila
Tel. 7221144 - 7221155 • E-mail: info@poea.gov.ph
Website: www.poea.gov.ph

MEMO CIRCULAR NO. 22
Series of 2003

TO : ALL LANDBASED AGENCIES DEPLOYING FISHERMEN FOR TAIWAN

SUBJECT : REGISTRATION AND PROCESSING OF FISHERMEN BOUND FOR TAIWAN

Pursuant to the new Rules and Regulations Governing the Recruitment and Employment of Seafarers, which provides that only licensed manning agencies may file an application for registration/accreditation of principals and in consonance with the thrust of the Administration to streamline its operational procedures, all transactions relating to the deployment of Filipino fishermen for Taiwan, which are presently handled by the Landbased Accreditation and Processing Center, shall be transferred to the Seabased Employment Accreditation and Processing Center (SBEC).

Requests for accreditation of principal, fishing vessel enrollment, approval of positions and salary scale and processing of employment contracts shall be undertaken by the SBEC in accordance with the established procedures of the said office.

This Circular shall be effective fifteen (15) days from its publication in a Philippine newspaper of general circulation.

For strict compliance.

(Sgd.) **ROSALINDA DIMAPILIS-BALDOZ**
Administrator

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
P.O. Box 70, U.P., Diliman, Quezon City
TIN 0000-784-336

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

Interested parties are invited to pre-qualify and bid for the supply of

VARIOUS FARM MACHINERIES AND EQUIPMENT
(BRAND NEW AND RECONDITIONED)
for Sugar-ACEF Related Projects (5th Public Bidding)
Budget Allocation - Php32,385,486.00

Only pre-qualified bidders shall be allowed to participate in the Public Bidding to be held on **September 25, 2003** at the SRA Social Hall of the Sugar Regulatory Administration, North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City at 9.00 a.m.

Prequalification forms may be secured from the Secretariat, 3rd Floor, SRA Annex Building of the same address starting **July 21, 2003** and the deadline for submission of said requirements shall be on **August 11, 2003.**

The list of qualified bidders shall be released on August 26, 2003. Thereafter, bid forms shall be issued for a non-refundable cost of Php 1,000.00/set.

A pre-bid conference shall be held on September 10, 2003 at the SRA Social Hall at 9:00 a.m.

For inquiries, please call:

The Bidding Secretariat - Telephone No. 929-6837

The SRA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formalities or defect therein and to accept any or all offers that may be considered most advantageous to the SRA.

(Sgd.) **JAMES C. LEDESMA**
Administrator

(PDI - July 19 & 26, 2003)

Philippine Postal Savings Bank, Inc.

PostalBank Center, Liwasang Bonifacio, Manila
ASSET MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO RE-BID

The **Philippine Postal Savings Bank, Inc.** through its Asset Management Committee (AMC) invites interested buyers to re-bid on any of the items listed below. The submission and opening of all bid proposals will be on July 25, 2003, 2:00 p.m. at 2nd Floor, Postal Bank Building, Liwasang Bonifacio, Manila.

Code No.	Location	Land Data	Floor Price
01	Brgy. Balao, Abra de Ilog Occidental Mindoro	2,520 sqm. residential lot	P .504M
02	Brgy. Silang Junction West Tagaytay City	10,000 sqm. Res./Agri.	P 24M
03	No. 23 4th Avenue Brgy. Bagong Lipunan, Quezon City	105 sqm. Residential	P .980M
04	Brgy. San Jose, Puerto Princesa City Palawan	1,561 sqm. Res./Agri.	P .624M
05	Sampaguita Street, Brgy. Andagao Kalibo City, Aklan	819 sqm. Residential	P 1.229M
06	Brgy. San Nicolas, Masantol Pampanga	1,813 sqm. Agricultural	P .363M
07	Brgy. Bulihan, Malolos Bulacan	3,750 sqm. Res./Agri.	P 5.364M
08	Brgy. San Andres, Candelaria Quezon	72,244 sqm. Res./Agri.	P 5.780M
09	Brgy. Sapang Balo, Angeles City	85,000 sqm. Agricultural	P 6.8M
10	Brgy. Sto. Niño, San Pablo City	17,746 sqm. Industrial	P 29.337M
11	Ridgedale Subd. Talamban, Cebu City	514 sqm. Residential	P 1.85M
12	Tuliao, Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan	3,759 sqm. Agricultural	P 4.891M
13	Suaco, Mangatarem, Pangasinan	2,044 sqm. Agricultural	P .613M
14	Poblacion, Mapandan, Pangasinan	8,438 sqm. Agricultural	P 7.591M
15	Torrali, Mangatarem, Pangasinan	300 sqm. Residential	P .36M
16	Salvanta, Urbiztondo, Pangasinan	36,173 sqm. Agricultural	P 3.862M
17	Caranglaan, Dagupan City	407 sqm. Residential	P .451M
18	Guivel, San Jacinto, Pangasinan	36,078 sqm. Agricultural	P 1.276M
19	Brgy. 36-A Calban, Tacloban City	1,000 sqm. School Bldg.	P 2.275M
20	Azurin Subd: San Jose, Antique	307 sqm. Residential	P .460M
21	Basi, Solana, Cagayan	1,012 sqm. Residential	P .081M
22	Angang, Tuao, Cagayan	2,240 sqm. Residential	P .124M
23	Angang, Tuao, Cagayan	2,249 sqm. Residential	P .173M
24	San Gabriel, Tuguegarao City	339 sqm. Residential	P .530M
25	Maguiling, Piat, Cagayan	1,500 sqm. Agricultural	P .225M

(as is where is)

All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope with the *Code No.* corresponding to the property/chattel written on the face of the envelope. A deposit equivalent to 10% of the total offer is required upon acceptance of the proposal.

PostalBank reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects or informalities contained therein or accept the offer/bid considered most advantageous to the Bank.

For further information regarding the other terms and conditions, please call 5270098, 5270040, 5270053 loc. 103.

(Sgd.) EDWIN A. REMODO
Chairman-AMC

(PDI - July 19 & 20, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date : July 18, 2003
Loan No. : 1654-PHI: Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP)
IFB No. : ADB-VEH-SEDIP

1. The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education (DepEd) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards financing the cost of the Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for Supply and Delivery of Motor Vehicles.
2. The DepEd through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Supply and Delivery of Motor Vehicles for the following:

Item No.	Type of Vehicle	Qty.	Recipient Institutions
1	Asian Utility Vehicle	1	SEDIP-NPMO, DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City
2	Pick-up, 4 x 4 Wheel-Drive	1	SEDIP-NPMO, DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City
3	Pick-up, 4 x 4 Wheel-Drive	1	DepEd Division of Romblon, Romblon
4	Pick-up, 4 x 4 Wheel-Drive	1	DepEd Division of Masbate, Masbate City
5	Pick-up, 4 x 4 Wheel-Drive	1	DepEd Division of Negros Oriental, Dumaguete City
6	Pick-up, 4 x 4 Wheel-Drive	1	DepEd Division of Leyte, Tacloban City
7	Pick-up, 4 x 4 Wheel-Drive	1	DepEd Division of Southern Leyte, Maasin, Southern Leyte
8	Pick-up, 4 x 4 Wheel-Drive	1	DepEd Division of Biliran, Naval, Biliran
9	Pick-up, 4 x 4 Wheel-Drive	1	DepEd Division of Zamboanga del Sur, Pagadian City
10	Pick-up, 4 x 4 Wheel-Drive	1	DepEd Division of North Cotabato, Kidapawan, Cotabato

3. The mode of procurement shall be through Local Competitive Bidding (LCB).
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid form and inspect the bidding documents from the BAC Office, Ground Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Tel # 6321361 loc. 2019.
5. A Complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting **July 21, 2003** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Three Hundred Pesos only (P300.00).
6. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than two percent (2%) of the total bid amount and must be delivered in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders on or before 2:00 p.m. on **August 18, 2003** and will be publicly opened immediately thereafter at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal I Building, DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines.
7. Prior to the bid opening, a pre-bid conference will be held on August 4, 2003 at the same time and at the address indicated in paragraph 6.
8. The DepEd reserves the right to accept and reject any or all bids and to annul the bidding process at any time prior to the award of Contract without incurring any liability to the affected bidders and to waive any minor informality or non-conformity in a bid which does not constitute a material deviation, provided such waiver will not prejudice or affect competitive ranking of any bid.

(Sgd.) **USEC JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – July 19 & 26, 2003)

Philippine Air Force
Headquarters Air Logistics and Support Command
Clark Air Base, Philippine Air Force
Angeles City, Pampanga

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Air Force (PAF) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the procurement of C-130 aircraft spares.

Prospective bidders must be duly licensed by the appropriate government agency. Eligibility requirements/forms will be made available to contractors upon submission of the below listed required documents to the Senior Bids and Awards Committee (SBAC) Secretariat, Air Logistics and Support Command (ALSC), Clark Air Base, Pampanga:

1. Letter of intent to participate in the bidding
2. Certificate of Registration from SEC/DTI/CDA

The approved budget is **TEN MILLION PESOS** (10M php) for C-130 aircraft spares.

The Pre-bid conference and Opening of Bids will be held on **11 Aug 2003 (Mon)** at the Project Management Staff Office (PMSO) Conference Room, CJVAB, Pasay City and **25 Aug 2003 (Mon)** at the ALSC Conference Room, Clark Air Base, Pampanga, respectively.

You may secure the Bid Documents from the SBAC Secretariat, DM office, 2nd Floor, Air Logistics and Support Command (ALSC), Clark Air Base, Pampanga or at Tel. No. 045-599-2014/2015 local 6689 / 09192353229.

The Philippine Air Force reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality contained therein and to accept and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the government. The Philippine Air Force neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of the bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **COL LORETO G SUAREZ PAF (GSC)**
Chairman, Senior Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–July 12 & 19, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6401 • (632) 920-6446
E-mail: sssemail@info.com.ph • Web site http://www.sss.gov.ph

NOTICE

Please get in touch with the Members Assistance Center, Social Security System (SSS), East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or at any SSS office nearest your place of residence and file your death benefit claim within 90 days upon publication, if you are:

	NAME OF BENEFICIARIES	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF SSS MEMBER	DATE OF DEMISE
1)	Lorenzo, Lilibeth & Jaime Jr. Alipio	Gordon Heights, Olongapo City	Jaime Alipio SS # 03-2012942-5	March 23, 1995
2)	Agripina C. Alvarez	Quezon City	Ricardo M. Alvarez SS # 03-3991074-8	October 16, 2002
3)	Ernesto Antolijao	Tarlac	Eustaquio T. Antolihao SS # 03-1764907-3	April 26, 2003
4)	Lucy Arias	Unknown	Dominador B. Arias SS # 03-5199753-2	April 17, 2003
5)	Juliana Franco Blanco	Parola St., Cainta, Rizal	Roberto S. Blanco SS # 03-1782536-3	May 13, 2003
6)	Marcial Bulacja	16 Transmitter St., Pasay City	Charito R. Bulacja SS # 33-3519371-5	December 11, 2001
7)	Maribel S. Canela	6 Buenbiaje St., Rodriguez, Montalban, Rizal	Antonio Canela SS # 03-4125945-5	August 16, 1999
8)	Natividad Casumanan	Sagayan, Asuncion, Davao Del Norte	Eduardo T. Casumanan SS # 09-0490345-2	July 8, 1996
9)	Nancy Catalbas	Iloilo	Jacinto Catalbas SS # 07-0378833-1	April 29, 2001
10)	Ricardo Crisolo	Unknown	Ruben Crisolo SS # 03-0167396-7	February 25, 2002
11)	Nilda Aringo David	Bicol	Francisco Zapanta David SS # 03-5020755-3	December 5, 2000
12)	Rizal dela Cruz	Constitution Hill, Bo. GAO, Quezon City	Armando dela Cruz SS # 03-3165697-4	January 19, 2000
13)	Leonardo Espanola Sr.	Manila	Leonardo Espanola, Jr. SS # 07-1087738-7	March 24, 2003
14)	Sabina S. Farolan	Midsayap, North Cotabato	Ciriaco C. Farolan SS # 09-0100300-9	January 29, 2001
15)	Eufemia Fernandez	Lubogan St., Toril, Davao City	Felicisimo B. Fernandez SS # 09-1043833-5	October 2, 2002
16)	Ignacio Floreta	Basilan	Rosario H. Floreta SS # 10-0277858-8	December 19, 2002
17)	Maximina, Luis & Eusebio	Unknown	Luis Abalos Gascon SS # 03-3111847-0	April 25, 2003
18)	Myrna D. Martin Rosemary Gonzales	39 B Pineapple Road, Potrero, Malabon, MM	Manuel E. Gonzales SS # 03-2164808-6	February 20, 2003
19)	Abelardo C. Arca	Unknown	Merlita Lapista SS # 07-1246764-3	April 20, 2003
20)	Marina Busaing	Unknown	Jose Madalag SS # 07-0611493-1	March 19, 2001
21)	Trinidad P. Matugas	Unknown	Valeriano Matugas SS # 03-1196576-6	May 19, 2003
22)	Joesalia Mondido	Unknown	Salustiano Mondido SS # 07-0514536-7	May 13, 2002
23)	Charito Santos	Unknown	Reynaldo Muñoz SS # 03-0121592-1	August 18, 2002
24)	Cristy Legamia-Omega	Davao City	Diosdado A. Omega SS # 09-0407623-7	December 24, 1999
25)	Rodrigo P. Orpiano Sr.	Brgy. Mamagbagan, Sta. Maria, Pangasinan	Laudencio P. Orpiano SS # 03-8190285-6	May 12, 2002
26)	Felicisimo Pereras	21 Halcon St., Quezon City	Fidela Pereras SS # 03-4730191-2	March 7, 2003
27)	Adelaida Subebe Robleza	Unknown	Otelio Robleza SS # 03-0499206-3	May 2, 2002
28)	Marita Samonte	Unknown	Juan DG. Samonte SS # 03-3012572-3	May 26, 2003
29)	Mercy Altiche	Unknown	Roberto B. Vargas SS # 33-3377000-4	August 21, 2000
30)	Angeles Napenas & Marievelle	31 La Salle Subd., Baguio City	Armando Viray SS # 01-0319883-5	November 16, 2000

(PDI - July 19, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Bukidnon
CITY OF MALAYBALAY
• • •
OFFICE OF THE CITY MAYOR
(088) 221-2267; (088) 813-2744, (088) 813-2739 (Fax)

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION

(FOR THE PLANNING, DESIGN, SITE DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE MALAYBALAY PUBLIC MARKET AND BUS TERMINAL PROJECT POBLACION, MALAYBALAY, BUKIDNON)

The Sangguniang Panglungsod of the City of Malaybalay has approved the flotation of the "Malaybalay City Bond" to finance the planning, design, site development and construction, Malaybalay Public Market and Bus Terminal in the Poblacion, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon. All interested proponents with the following qualifications are invited to prequlify of the said project;

1. PCAB/IAC --- AAA and the large "B" for roads and buildings;
2. Must be capable of undertaking the planning, design, construction, and site development of a civic/ commercial center;
3. Must be willing to accept payment in the form of Malaybalay City bond redeemable in seven (7) years from the date of issuance.

A complete set of Prequalification statement (Pre-C) forms may be obtained by interested contractors and/or joint ventures from the PBAC through a written application address to the undersigned and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P10,000.00. Request submitted by mail should include a Manager's / Cashier's check in the amount ad currency indicated above in favor of the City Government of Malaybalay. The City Government of Malaybalay will promptly mail the documents through LBC / ABOITIZ, but under no circumstances can it be held responsible for late delivery or loss of the documents mailed to the applicant.

Interested contractors may obtain further information at the **PBAC, City Hall Compound, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon, Philippines,** or call **(088) -211-4947, look for ENGR. BENITO O. LUGTU / TOMAS Y. TAGA,** Project Manager.

Complete Pre-C Forms must likewise be submitted to PBAC Secretariat on or before **August 18, 2003** at office hours (before 5:00 PM). Documents submitted/ received late will not be considered and will be returned unopened. All applicant contractors will be notified in writing on the status of the Pre-C evaluation. Only prequalified contractors will be issued contract documents. Bidding date will be announced later.

The City Government of Malaybalay reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive minor informality in the bids received, and to award the contract to the bidder whose bid, as evaluated by PBAC, is the most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **HON. FLORENCIO T. FLORES, JR.**
City Mayor/PBAC Chairman

(PDI--July 19, 2003)

ORACIONES OPENING MOVED

Due to unavoidable circumstances, the opening of Tanghalang Pilipino's production, *Oraciones* will have its gala night on **July 25, 2003, Friday, 8:00 p.m.** at the CCP Little Theater.

Invitations to the original opening night (July 18) will be honored on **July 25.** Ticket holders of the **July 18, 19 and 20** performances may come and watch on any of the following performance dates: **July 26, August 1, 2 at 8 p.m.; July 26, 27, August 2, 3 at 2:30 p.m.**

For inquiries call 832-3661 or 832-1125 locals 1620, 1621.

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God saw you getting tired,
When a cure was not to be.
So He wrapped His arms around you,
And whispered, "Come to Me."
You didn't deserve what you went through,
So He gave you rest.

God's garden must be beautiful,
He only picks the best.
And when I saw you sleeping,
So peaceful and free from pain,
I could not wish you back
To suffer that again.

In Loving Memory

on the Fourth Death Anniversary of

MOONYEEN R. ABESAMIS-AYACHE

who passed on to Eternal Life on July 20, 1999

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass shall be offered at the following Churches:

Philippines
July 20, 2003

Garden of Love, Loyola Memorial Park, *Marikina City*	3:30 p.m. Mass
St. Ignatius Cathedral, *Camp Gen. Aguinaldo, Quezon City*	7:00 a.m.
Miraculous Medal Parish, *Project 4, Quezon City*	6:00 a.m.
Monastery of St. Clare, *Katipunan Road, Quezon City*	6:00 a.m.
Sta. Maria dela Strada, *Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City*	6:00 a.m.
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, *13th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City*	7:00 a.m.
St. Joseph Shrine Parish, *Aurora Boulevard, Project 3, Quezon City*	7:45 a.m.
Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish, *18th Avenue, Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City*	6:00 a.m.
Christ the King Parish, *Greenmeadows, Quezon City*	7:00 a.m.
Provident Villages Chapel, *Provident Village, Marikina*	7:00 a.m.
St. Francis of Assisi Parish, *Peñaranda, Nueva Ecija*	6:00 a.m.
	8:00 a.m.

Japan
July 20, 2003

Koza Catholic Church, *KAMARA 1-4-1, Okinawa, Japan*	8:00 a.m.

We, her parents, **Justice & Mrs. Bernardo P. Abesamis**, husband **Rudy**, daughter **Micah Aubrey**, brothers **Atty. Ferdie, Atty. Edmund, Engr. Jun, Atty. Al** and **Quezon City Councilor Rommel**, sister **Dr. Gigi Abesamis-Recasata**, in-laws, nephews and nieces, request readers, relatives and friends to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Rosario Soriano-Angeles, D.D.M.

of Morong, Rizal
1927 - 2003

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord
at Cardinal Santos Medical Center on July 15, 2003.

Her bereaved husband **Juan Jr. (Johnny)**; children **Juan III (Jing), Randolph, Jocelyn, Rosalinda, Olympia, Juan IV (Boyet), Cristina June** and **Jenny**; children-in-law, grandchildren, great grandson, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family home, 344 T. Claudio St., Morong, Rizal. A Funeral Mass will be held at the Morong Catholic Church today, July 19, 2003 at 1:00 p.m.

Interment will follow at the Holy Angels Memorial Park in Morong, Rizal.

We deeply mourn the passing away of
Our Dearly Beloved Brother-Priest,

REV. FR. EFREN SUDARIO ARELLANO JR.

of the Diocese of Antipolo
who peacefully joined his Creator on July 14, 2003 at the age of 51.

His Excellency, **Most Rev. Gabriel V. Reyes, D.D.**, Bishop of Antipolo; His Excellency, **Most Rev. Protacio G. Gungon, D.D.**, Bishop Emeritus of Antipolo; the Clergy of the Diocese of Antipolo; his brothers, namely, **Gregorio, Pablito, Eugenio, Ponciano** and his sisters, namely, **Preciosa, Brigida, Demitria,** and **Josephine**; nephews and nieces, relatives, parishioners and friends request the faithful to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Sta. Ursula Parish Church, Binangonan, Rizal until 7:00 a.m. of Saturday, July 19, 2003 and will be transferred to San Isidro Labrador Parish Church, Nangka, Marikina City until 9:00 a.m. of Sunday, July 20, 2003. His remains will be flown to Dagami, Leyte on July 20, 2003 at 1:00 p.m.

Interment will be on Thursday, July 24, 2003, at Dagami Catholic Cemetery after 1:00 p.m. Mass at St. Joseph Parish Church, Dagami, Leyte.

In Loving Memory

of the 7th Death Anniversary
of our **DEAREST MAMA,**

ENERITA SALONGA vda. de OCAMPO

of HERMOSA, BATAAN and COTABATO CITY
September 15, 1913 - July 19, 1996

Holy Masses will be offered on Saturday, July 19, 2003 in the following churches:

1. **METRO MANILA:**	
– ARCHDIOCESAN SHRINE OF DIVINE MERCY	– 6:00 AM
– OUR LADY OF EDSA	– 7:00 PM
– MARY THE QUEEN PARISH	– 6:00 PM
– PARISH OF SAN FELIPE NERI	– 7:00 AM
2. **SAN PABLO CITY:**	
– NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LOS REMEDIOS PARISH	– 6:30 AM
– ST. PAUL FIRST HERMIT CATHEDRAL	– 6:45 PM
3. **CEBU & MANDAUE CITY:**	
– NUESTRA SEÑORA VIRGEN DE LA REGLA	– 5:30 PM
– DON BOSCO MISSIONARY SEMINARY	– 6:30 AM
– METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL	– 7:30 AM
– BASILICA DEL SANTO NIÑO	– 8:00 AM
– SAN ROQUE PARISH	– 6:00 PM
4. **CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY & MALAYBALAY CITY:**	
– XAVIER UNIVERSITY CHAPEL	– 6:30 AM
– SAN AGUSTIN CATHEDRAL	– 5:30 AM
	– 6:30 AM
– MONASTERY OF THE TRANSFIGURATION	– 5:20 AM
5. **COTABATO CITY:**	
– IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHEDRAL	– 5:30 AM
– HOLY ROSARY PARISH	– 6:00 AM

We, her loving family request her relatives and friends to join us in prayer for her eternal peace with God and happiness with her beloved husband **Pedro R. Ocampo, Sr.**

We, the bereaved family of the late

ARCH. RENATO "RENE" S. VALDERRAMA

Who passed away last July 03, 2003, would want to thank all those who offered help, prayers & masses, gave comfort & consolation during our most painful moments.

From : Wife, Nedy Barangan Valderrama,
Children, Grandchildren,
Brothers & Sister,

Thank you so much.
(Nedy: 0920-447-4148)

In Loving Memory

on the 15th Death Anniversary of
our beloved mother

LUCIA SAMANIEGO-DAVID

(of San Nicolas 1st., Lubao, Pampanga)
who died on July 19, 1988

Her family request relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul in GOD'S EVERLASTING LIGHT.

DEATH NOTICES

MELCHOR LAT OPULENCIA

Joined his Creator on July 17, 2003
at the age of 79.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 20, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

ELISEO CARPIO LAJARA

Joined his Creator on July 14, 2003
at the age of 84.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 20, 2003 after the 1:00 p.m. Requiem Mass at St. John the Baptist Church.

DRA. ROBERTA V. HERNANDEZ

Died on July 14, 2003 at the age of 82.

Interment will be on July 20, 2003 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

> **"Let the words of my mouth meet your Favor, keep the thoughts of my heart before you, Lord, my rock, my redeemer...**
>
> **Psalm 21:15**

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Going home to privacy and anonymity

IN ADDITION to unmatched views within city limits, Ayala Hillside Estates in Quezon City will soon be offering a select number of homeowners two more distinct advantages: privacy and anonymity like they have never experienced before in any Metro Manila residential subdivision.

In one of the highest points of the 23-hectare community carved out of the former Capitol Hills golf course in Diliman, Quezon City, a well-secured enclave has been earmarked for residents who desire maximum privacy. Intended to be named as The Pinnacle at Ayala Hillside Estates, the exclusive neighborhood with only nine lots will have limited and carefully-screened access and its own dedicated security personnel.

According to Ayala Land Inc. senior vice president Tristan dela Rosa, this section of Ayala Hillside Estates was developed in response to requests from prospective homeowners for the highest level of privacy. Research conducted by Ayala Land Inc. (ALI), revealed that many affluent buyers put a high premium on this advantage.

Contrary to generally-held notions, many of the most affluent customers do not like to be touted as such, particularly in their choice of property for their homes, according to dela Rosa. "They would rather enjoy their anonymity and keep their privacy when they go home to sleep at night."

In relation to the rest of the sprawling Ayala Hillside Estates, ALI assistant vice president Joselto Luna likens lots here to penthouse units - a development's most prime properties. Like penthouse units, they enjoy superior views and are limited in number - exactly nine, each of which range from 800 to 1,300 sqms.

Like other sections of Ayala Hillside Estates in Quezon City, The Pinnacle is also nestled among the fairways of the new executive golf course being developed for Capitol Hills members in a portion of the original site. It is likewise accessible to the country's finest schools and within commuting distance of the country's major business districts, ranking it among the very few neighborhoods within city limits with magnificent views.

The entrance to this exclusive area marked by an elegant and secure rampart which reflects the subdivision's Asian contemporary theme while establishing a sense of place for this cozy neighborhood. The distinct look of the area is complemented by a garden for the enjoyment of its residents with strong Zen influences.

A number of the lots also have added attractions: heritage trees that have been witness to the years of Philippine history. Highly prized for how they enhance the landscape, these trees have been under the supervision of highly-trained tree specialists.

Over and above privacy and security, lot owners here can also enjoy other amenities of Ayala Hillside Estates. These include a multi-purpose pavilion, swimming pool, basketball court, children's play area, and a number of parks

WORKSHOP FOR COKE SCHOLARS

Coca-Cola Foundation's 3rd batch of graduating Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education (BSEE) scholars attended a 4-day workshop at the Coca-Cola Training Center in Sta. Rosa, Laguna last April 21 to 24. On the first day of the workshop, fifteen scholars from as far as north Ilocos to down south Zamboanga listened to an inspirational talk on "Teaching as a Vocation" given by the director of the Ateneo Faculty Formation Institute, professor Onofre Pagsanghan. This was followed with goal setting sessions and the formulation of their batch vision/mission statement. The next two days were dedicated to the "Colloquium on the Ministry of Teaching," a 2-day workshop aimed at allowing the scholars to look deeper into the meaning of their chosen career as teachers. The colloquium was facilitated by professor Manny Dy and Mike Asis also from Ateneo de Manila University. Shown in photo is professor Pagsanghan posing for the camera together with the Coca-Cola scholars.

JOHNNIE WALKER BAGS AWARD

Reader's Digest Asia recently awarded the world's number one Scotch deluxe whisky, Johnnie Walker the Superbrand Platinum 2003 for its outstanding brand performance in the Philippines and the rest of Asia in the whisky category. The magazine's readers have consistently voted Johnnie Walker a Superbrand for 5 years, beginning from the time the first Superbrands award was given in 1999. In the awards night held at the Westin Philippine Plaza, Reader's Digest advertising director for the Philippines Lilet Camara-Yan noted that there are 85 Superbrand awardees this year and Johnnie Walker is among the elite 24 brands that got a Platinum award. Photo shows from left: Philippine Marketing Association president Dr. Leonardo Garcia Jr. joins Reader's Digest advertising director Lilet Camara-Yan in congratulating the associate media director of Mindshare Dinna Pilar, Johnnie Walker marketing manager Peter Khemlani and product manager Randy Uson.

UMED PARTNERS JOIN HANDS

In a span of more than three years since its inception in March 2000, Unilab Medical Education and Development or Umed Medical Education has responded to the Filipino doctor's need for high quality continued medical education in order to enhance the skills and help improve public health care in the country. To keep pace with the advances in medical technology, Umed designed a special CME program that is both global in perspective and local in focus - collaborating with an international link consisting of Yale University, and the National Jewish Medical and Research Center, and a Philippine link composed of a pool of the most respected and outstanding specialist in the country. Shown in photo (from left) are: Dr. David Tinkelman of the National Jewish Medical and Research Center, Denver, Colorado; Carlos Ejercito, COO and president of United Laboratories Inc.; and Dr. Joseph Warshaw, Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut.

FedEx unveils new print ad campaign

FEDEX Express (FedEx), the world's largest express transportation company, has unveiled a major new print-advertising campaign, "Now flying to more places in Europe", which appeared across Asia starting April and in the Philippines starting June.

"FedEX connects shippers in Asia to more cities in Europe than before, with service enhancements from Asia and added continental destinations," said Rajesh Subramaniam, vice president, marketing and communications, FedEx Asia Pacific. "This print advertising campaign captures the FedEx fast, reliable door-to-door service and our unmatched ability to connect Asia to Europe, the world's largest consumer market."

FedEx flies daily from Asia to its European hub in Paris. "For our customers, this means that the moment our plane lands in Europe, their package is already very close to its destinations," he added.

The three versions feature an airport-controller on a bridge to a medieval water-fortress, an airstrip-lawn next to a windmill and a 'dolly', usually used in airports for freight and baggage, creeping up a small path to a castle.

"The idea was to show that FedEx planes don't just go to the main capital airports", says David Guerrero, ECD of BBDO Guerrero Ortega, who developed the campaign with his Manila Team for BBDO Asia-Pacific. "So we were looking for a way to bring the airport out to smaller locations, which still had to be recognizable as European. We sued stock material for the backgrounds and shot the controller and the dolly separately at Singapore Changi Airport."

ASI ACIFIC CHAMPS LLENG
AWARD IGH
BANG 003

PIZZA HUT WINS GOLD

Pizza Hut Philippines once again proved its mettle when it earned another gold medal for the fourth consecutive year in the annual Champs Challenge recently held in Thailand, besting 11 countries. Organized by Pizza Hut International (a division of Yum Brands), the Olympics is an annual competition where teams from different countries in the Asia-Pacific region vie for the coveted gold medal based on perfectly performing Pizza Hut's high standards of operations. This year, the Pizza Hut Philippines delegation outclassed the competition when they brought home three major team awards: An overall gold rating based on their performance in the actual competition, the Best Customer Mania Award, and the Best Cheer Award. In photo are Rose Herrera (fourth from left), Pizza Hut's VP for Operations together with the Pizza Hut team composed of managers and service team members.

Start a small business

HOW does a prospective entrepreneur-investor learn the how, where, and when of starting his own business the right way? By attending the Dynamic Center for Entrepreneurship (formerly Entrepreneurs Institute of the Philippines) seminar today, July 19 at the AIM Conference Center starting at 8:30 a.m., one would be able to find the answers to this question. Other topics tackled in the seminar includes Organizational Set-up, Development and Control, Financial Policy Formulation and Management, Networking, Promotions and Advertising, Sales and Merchandising, Commercialization, and Business Analysis. Trainings will be conducted by the best minds in the field of entrepreneurship, marketing, and sales training. Participants shall learn how to start right and develop their own business. Interested parties can call Monina or Gina at 647-9427, telefax 668-1606.

BPI CREDIT CARDHOLDER WINS NEW FORD SPORT TRAC

BPI Credit Card announced the results of its 'Sign-Up Madness Promo' raffle draw held last March 4. Alma Esperanza Anglo, won the grand prize, a brand new and tax-free Ford Sport Trac. Photo shows Arnold Saniano (3rd from right), sales head of BPI Credit Cards and Edmund Yee (2nd from left), president and CEO of Ford Edsa awarding the Ford Sport Trac to Anglo (3rd from left). Also present were BPI Credit Card sales officers Adela Gutierrez (1st from left) and Cristina Tumalad (2nd from right) with Robert Leal, marketing analyst of Ford Group Phils. (1st from right).

Phili ir
Airli

PAL SIGNS UP WITH LEVERAGE SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGIES INC.

Philippine Airlines (PAL), the country's flag-carrier, recently signed up with Leverage Systems Technologies Inc. (LST) an IT solutions provider, to provide them with IBM Tivoli Network Monitoring and Desktop Management Solutions. IMB Tivoli is an intelligent management software that integrates infrastructure performance data gathered from across the organization and extends traditional network management to ensure availability of critical business systems. Shown sealing the agreement with a handshake are PAL vice president for ISD Kevin Hartigan-Go and LST executive vice president Eleanor Warren. Also in photo are, from left: LST vice president for Infrastructure management Mannie Aguirre; IBM software group country manager Victor Silvino; IBM Tivoli software country manager Nathaniel Marquez; PAL manager for contracts Jaime Chio and Pal assistant vice president for ISD Ted Simon.

Stroke Research Awards launched

STROKE often strikes without warning. The present toll of disability and death caused by cerebrovascular disease is steadily increasing, according to the 2002 World Health Report.

To raise awareness on the seriousness of atherothrombosis, a major health problem of national concern, the Stroke Society of the Philippines (SSP), in partnership with Sanofi-Synthelabo Philippines, recently launched two research contests on stroke. The research initiative aims to promote continuous study on the management of the disease.

The research projects, known as The 3rd Stroke Research Contest and The 1st Patient Program Award, are open to all medical and paramedical personnel, offers a cash prize of P75,000 for first prize, P50,000 for second prize, and P25,000 for first prize. The criteria for judging are relevance, originality, and impact.

All original and unpublished papers on stroke or cerebrovascular disease should be submitted to the SSP secretariat. Top entries will be chosen for oral presentation during the SSP convention to be held in Dumaguete City from Aug. 20 to 22.

On the other hand, the 1st Patient Program Award is a commitment by the SSP and Sanofi-Synthelabo to recognize doctors and paramedical organizations officially headed by a physician who have innovative proposals in the clinical management of stroke.

Prizes at stake are: P100,000 for first prize, P75,000 for second prize, and P50,000 for the third prize.

Proposals or ongoing projects on Patient Care Programs revolving on stroke, either individually or as a team, should be original and innovative, culturally acceptable and locally relevant, and must be implementable in all tertiary hospitals nationwide.

Deadline for submission of entries to the SSP secretariat is on Aug. 1. Awarding of winners will be held during the 4th Biennial Convention of the SSP in Dumaguete City from Aug. 20 to 22.

For inquiries and for contest guidelines, call the SSP secretariat at St. Luke's Medical Center at 723-0101 local 5143.

Department of Health
RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR TROPICAL MEDICINE
Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City
Tel. Nos. 807-26-28 to 32 Fax No. 842-22-45

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

BAC-ITB-NO. 2003-05

The Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) hereby invites all interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the installation of Air Handling System for Negative Pressure Isolation Room (total of 8 rooms).

Only duly licensed firms, who carry this line of work/services/product are qualified to participate in this bidding.

Bidding documents can be secured from Mr. Noel Mandac or Ms. Mae Marie Hernandez at the Property & Supply Department, Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, upon payment of non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00).

Schedule of Activities

a.) Issuance of Bid Documents	July 10-23, 2003 (9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)
b.) Submission of Eligibility Requirements	July 24, 2003 (9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)
c.) Pre-bid Conference	July 30, 2003 1:30 p.m. Lecture Room 1, Training Center
d.) Submission and Opening of Sealed Bids	August 6, 2003 1:30 p.m. Lecture Room 1, Training Center

Only Pre-qualified Bidders shall be allowed to attend the Pre-Bid Conference. Attendance to Pre-bid conference is a must and failure to show up shall be deemed to have waived his right to participate.

The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to annul the bidding process anytime prior to the award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the RITM's action.

(Sgd.) SALVACION R. GATCHALIAN, M.D.
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI – July 13 & 19, 2003)

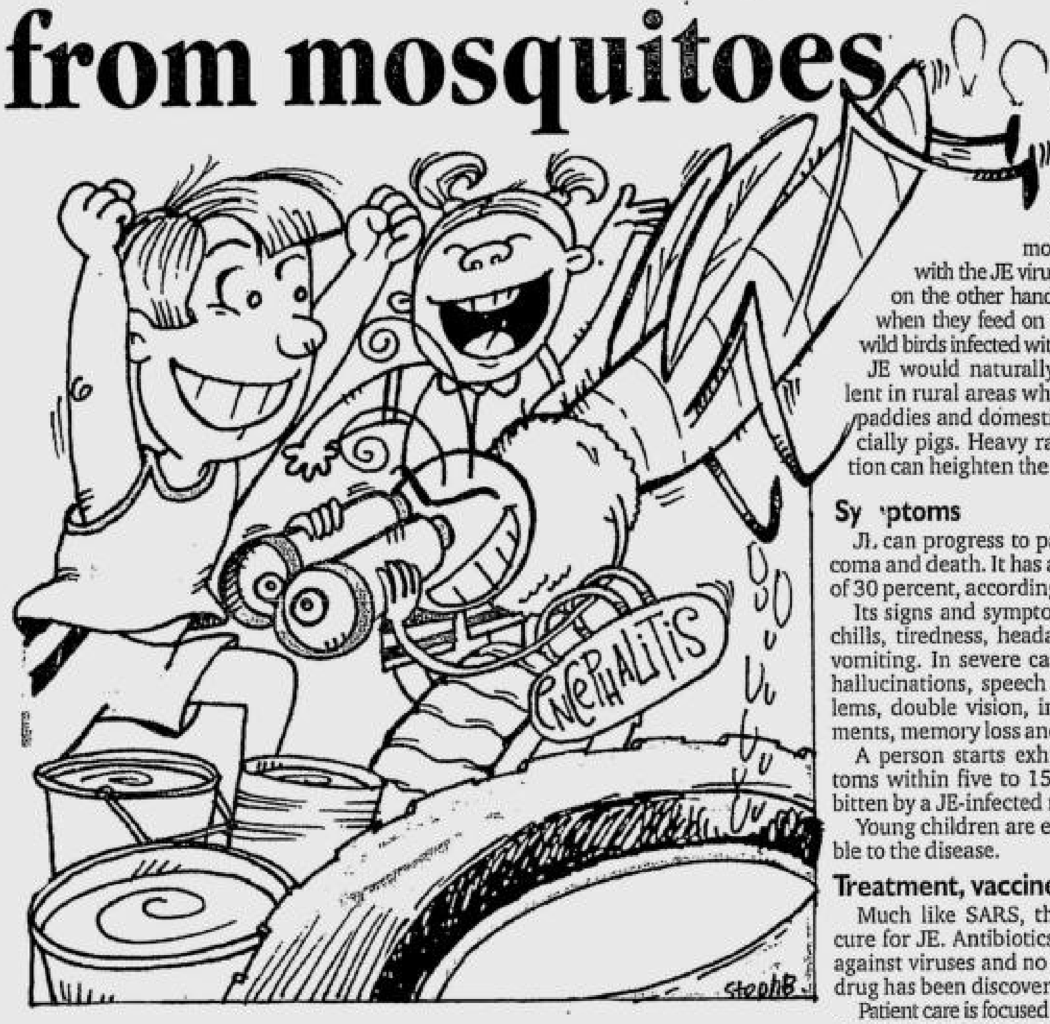
SCIENCE/HEALTH

E-mail: pr_science_health@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**
Assistant Editor **Stella O. Gonzales**

JAPANESE ENCEPHALITIS

Another deadly disease from mosquitoes



By Tessa R. Salazar

NEWS reports of Japa-nese encephalitis cases in the Philippines recently drew the attention of local media, which was still reeling from their coverage of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

Many news articles were quick to link the three suspected Japanese encephalitis (JE) cases in Tarlac to the more than 200 cases in Guangdong, China. They drew parallelisms between the viral brain infection and SARS, which is suspected to have originated from the same Chinese province.

But, as health officials had explained, Japanese encephalitis, unlike SARS, is not a new disease. It is in fact endemic in many Asian countries, including the Philippines.

According to Dr. Maria Consorcia Quizon, head of the Department of Health's National Epidemiology Center, of the three suspected JE cases reported by the media, only one was eventually diagnosed with the disease. She assured the public that there was no cause for alarm.

Quizon said JE is a "very rare disease" in the Philippines and that there are less than 10 documented cases annually.

"We know that it occurs but it's extremely rare," she said.

JE is a brain infection, that's why it's called encephalitis. It is the leading cause of viral encephalitis in Asia with 30,000 to 50,000 cases a year.

It is spread by mosquitoes, primarily the *Culex tritaeniorhynchus* which breed in rice fields. (In contrast, the dengue-carrying mosquito, the *Aedes aegypti*, breeds in clear, stagnant water.)

It is not transmitted from person to person.

People get JE when they are bitten by a mosquito infected with the JE virus. The mosquitoes, on the other hand, become infected when they feed on domestic pigs and wild birds infected with the virus.

JE would naturally be most prevalent in rural areas where there are rice paddies and domestic livestock, especially pigs. Heavy rainfall and irrigation can heighten the risk.

Symptoms

JE can progress to paralysis, seizures, coma and death. It has a case fatality rate of 30 percent, according to the DOH.

Its signs and symptoms include fever, chills, tiredness, headache, nausea and vomiting. In severe cases, there can be hallucinations, speech or hearing problems, double vision, involuntary movements, memory loss and coma.

A person starts exhibiting the symptoms within five to 15 days after being bitten by a JE-infected mosquito.

Young children are especially vulnerable to the disease.

Treatment, vaccine

Much like SARS, there is no known cure for JE. Antibiotics are not effective against viruses and no effective antiviral drug has been discovered, the DOH said.

Patient care is focused on the treatment of the disease's symptoms and complications.

But there is a commercially available vaccine for JE which is derived from an inactivated virus.

More vaccines with fewer side effects are being developed.

Some side effects associated with the JE vaccine are fever, headache, rashes, chills, dizziness, vomiting and abdominal pain.

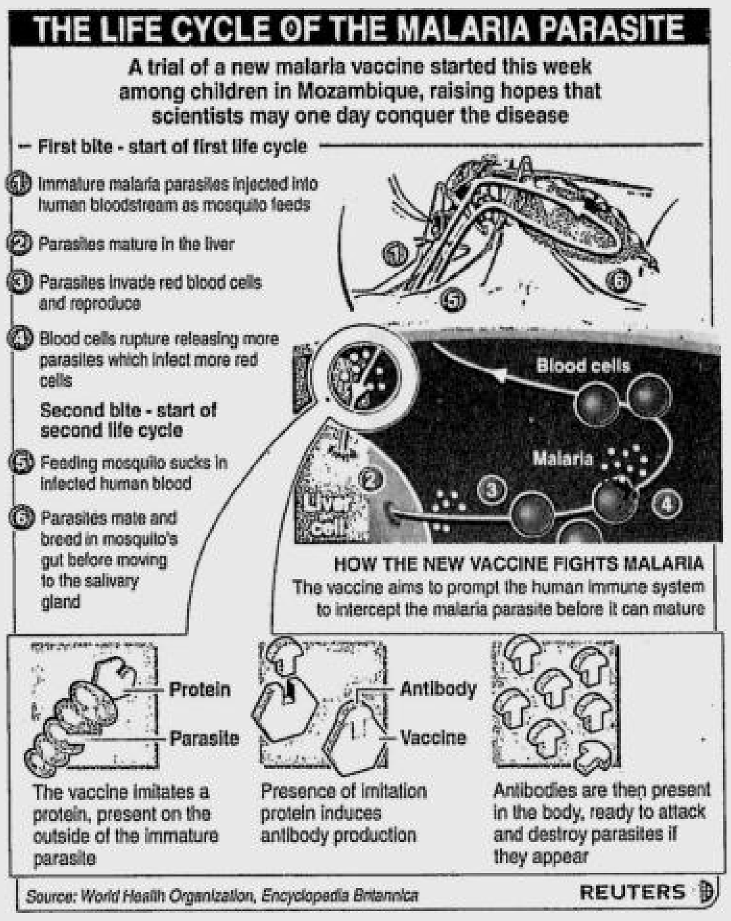
In endemic areas, two doses of the vaccine are given one to four weeks apart, then a booster shot is given after one year and every three years thereafter.

Like other mosquito-borne diseases, one effective way to prevent JE is for people to use mosquito nets, insecticides, insect repellents and protective clothing.

According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, JE outbreaks usually do not last more than two months and do not cover large areas. Countries that sill have periodic JE outbreaks are Vietnam, Cambodia, Burma (Myanmar), India, Nepal and Malaysia.

THE LIFE CYCLE OF THE MALARIA PARASITE

A trial of a new malaria vaccine started this week among children in Mozambique, raising hopes that scientists may one day conquer the disease


– First bite - start of first life cycle
① Immature malaria parasites injected into human bloodstream as mosquito feeds
② Parasites mature in the liver
③ Parasites invade red blood cells and reproduce
④ Blood cells rupture releasing more parasites which infect more red cells
Second bite - start of second life cycle
⑤ Feeding mosquito sucks in infected human blood
⑥ Parasites mate and breed in mosquito's gut before moving to the salivary gland
Blood cells
Malaria
Liver cell
HOW THE NEW VACCINE FIGHTS MALARIA
The vaccine aims to prompt the human immune system to intercept the malaria parasite before it can mature
Protein
Parasite
The vaccine imitates a protein, present on the outside of the immature parasite
Antibody
Vaccine
Presence of imitation protein induces antibody production
Antibodies are then present in the body, ready to attack and destroy parasites if they appear

Source: World Health Organization, Encyclopedia Britannica REUTERS

Scientists start malaria vaccine trial in Africa

ABOUT 2,000 children in Mozambique are taking part in a clinical trial to see whether the RTS,S/AS02 vaccine made by GlaxoSmithKline Plc protects against malaria which affects three million people worldwide, mostly children under 5 years old.

A vaccine is seen as the best hope against the disease because the malaria parasite has become resistant to some anti-malarial drugs. If a vaccine is proven effective it will be given to babies along with other childhood immunizations.

RTS,S/AS02 is one of 80 malaria vaccines in development, but, said Dr. Pedro Alonso of the University of Barcelona who will conduct the trial, "it is the most promising and the most advanced by far."

"All other vaccines are a number of years behind," he said, adding that the Mozambique experiment was the only large-scale efficacy trial in young African children currently being carried out.

The vaccine had a short-term efficacy rate of 71 percent when it was tested in adults in Gambia. Scientists are hoping it will work even better in the youngsters but even a 50 percent effectiveness would be a major advance.

"The burden of malaria is of such magnitude that...if we could reduce by 50 percent the amount of clinical disease and death due to malaria, this would be the most effective vaccine ever deployed," Alonso said.

"The efficacy has to be seen in relation to the burden of the disease," he added, estimating that a 50 percent rate would prevent half a million deaths each year.

He expects results from the trial in 18 months. If it is successful, further tests will be done on infants,

Creating a vaccine against the disease has been a top public health priority. Forty percent of the world's population is at risk of malaria.

Vaccine development has been difficult because of the complexity of the mosquito-borne *Plasmodium falciparum* parasite which has more than 5,000 genes.

Reuters

Cueing in

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

(Conclusion)

LAST week's final paragraphs demonstrated how color blindness can be inherited. Genetics also plays a role in explaining why the majority of people who are color blind can't see reds or greens.

Based on the work of Jeremy Nathans, a noted researcher at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, we know now that the genes for the red and green color receptors are on the X chromosome (the blue receptor gene is on chromosome 7, which everyone has and which, coincidentally, has just been completely sequenced).

When the sex chromosomes interact as egg meets sperm and form a new life, the green and red receptors may not pair up properly. This means a person can either have too many copies of one color receptor, which still guarantees full color vision, or else lack one color receptor, which leads to color blindness.

But knowing about the red and green receptor genes still doesn't explain evolutionary geneticist Jianzhi Zhang's theory of how man chose full color vision over the ability to detect pheromones millions of years ago, does it?

Comparing primate DNA

Several weeks ago I wrote about human pheromone candles and how some scientists have questioned their worth as aphrodisiacs because of the supposed nonexistence of the vomeronasal organ (VNO) that detects chemicals like pheromones in humans.

While I still think human pheromone candles are useless because they contain steroids instead of pheromones, I should point out that the VNO really does exist, although perhaps it isn't in humans anymore.

To check the genetic ability to detect pheromones, Dr. Zhang looked at anthropoidal DNA, comparing the DNA of primates from the Old World (or OW, which refers to Africa, Asia and Europe so the group includes gorillas, chimps and humans) with the DNA of primates from the New World (or NW, which is made up of Mexico and South America, from whence come capuchins, tamarins and howler monkeys).

I'm guessing the OW/NW labels weren't holdovers from the age of exploration but rather were given based on where humanity got its start.

Ion channel

Dr. Zhang specifically looked at the genetic sequences for TRP2, an ion channel that, based on the work of Dr. Catherine Dulac, a professor of molecular and cell biology at Harvard University whose research focuses on the VNO in mice, is found solely in the VNO and plays an important role in pheromone signaling.

To digress briefly and give an example of TRP2's importance, Dr. Dulac found that mice who'd had the channel knocked out or disabled couldn't differentiate between the pheromones emitted by normal male mice (who they should have tried to attack because of territory issues) and by female mice (who they tried to mate with as often as they tried to mate with the males).

One of the most important pheromone signals for anthropoids, however, is being able to detect a female in heat and ready to assist in the continuation of the species.

Think of the NW primates as the anthropoids for whom time stood still. Their TRP2 genes haven't changed very much since they moved away from the others millions of years ago, which means they can smell a female in heat.

The OW primates have lost their ability to do the same, but on the other hand, they can tell from a distance that a female is in heat because her behind has turned a bright red. In OW primates, the TRP2 gene sequence has changed so much that the gene has been rendered useless, although it sill exists.

Anthropoids split up

Through computer simulation and fossil records, Dr. Zhang estimates that 23 million years ago, right before the anthropoids split up to become OW and NW primates, the OWers' TRP2 gene was somehow genetically turned off, which prevented them from detecting and accurately interpreting pheromone signals.

After the split between the anthropoid groups, and possibly as compensation (bearing in mind that the female primates have always had full color vision because they have two copies of the X chromosome), the male OWers then received the second color receptor gene that turned their world from black and white into color.

It's been said that the loss of one sense leads to the heightened awareness and sensitivity of the remaining senses. We certainly don't seem to miss a keen sense of smell since we make judgments primarily based on appearance. Still, always take a bath and put on a clean pair of underwear before you go out. Because you never know who, or what, will be judging you.

Scientists of the year

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

DESPITE the mounting crises all around, various Filipino scientists in different fields steadily go about their tasks to further research in their areas and to help our country in their own ways. This was especially evident last week at the Manila Hotel during the conclusion of their annual convention, when the National Academy of Science and Technology conferred the following awards upon deserving scientists.

Outstanding Young Scientists:

Nathaniel C. Bantayan, Ph.D. (Forestry Engineering)

William L. de los Santos, Ph.D. (Agronomy and Soils)

Ma. Corazon A. de Ungria, Ph.D. (Molecular Biology)

Evelyn Grace T. de Jesus-Ayson, Ph.D. (Zoology)

Agnes T. Paras, Ph.D. (Mathematics)

Carla B. Dimalanta, Ph.D. (Geology)

Jesus N. Sarol Jr., M.D. (Epidemiology)

Jose Alberto S. Reyes, Ph.D. (Psychology)

Mary Ann A. Endoma, Ph.D. (Chemistry), who also received the TWAS prize for Young Scientist in the Philippines

NAST-Dupont Talent Search for Young Scientists:

Luis Francisco G. Sarmenta, Ph.D. (Electrical Engineering and Computer Science)

Windell L. Rivera, Ph.D. (Medical Science)

James A. Villanueva, Ph.D. (Chemistry)

Amelita J. Bartolome, Ph. D. (Technical Chemistry, special citation)

Alvin Y. Chua, Ph.D. (Mechanical Engineering, special citation)

NAST Corresponding Members

For the first time, to cement partnerships with Filipino scientists based abroad, NAST conferred the title of Corresponding Members to:

Amador C. Muriel, Ph.D. (Physics)

Baldomero M. Olivera, Ph.D. (Biochemistry)

Eduardo A. Padlan, Ph.D. (Biophysics)

Jose B. Cruz, Ph.D. (Electrical Engineering)

Outstanding scientific paper awardees:

Conrado H. Balatero, Desiree M. Hautea, Peter M. Hanson and Josefina O. Narciso (Development of Molecular Markers for Marker-Assisted Breeding for Bacterial Wilt Resistance in Tomato, The Philippine Agricultural Scientist 85(2) 170-181, 2002)

Avelino D. Raymundo, Narceo B. Bajet, Augusto C. Sumalde, Bonifacio P. Cipriano, Ramon Borromeo, Samuel B. Garcia, Porfirio T. Tapalla and Nestor Fabellar (Mapping the Spread of Abaca Bunchy-Top and Mosaic Diseases in the Bicol and Eastern Visayas Regions, Philippines, The Philippine Agricultural Scientist 84(4) 352-361, 2001)

Maria Corazon A. de Ungria, Alma Frani-Ferrer, Kristina A. Tabbada, Michelle M. Tan, Frederick C. Delfin, Gayvelline C. Calacal and Saturnina C. Halos (The Philippine Genetic Database of Short Tandem Repeats (STR) in DNA-based Paternity Testing, Philippine Journal of Science 131(1) 1-8, 2002)

Job A. Nable (Deformation Quantization and Representations of the Real Rotation Group, Science Diliman, A Journal of Pure and Applied Science 13(1) 41-53, 2001).

Sergio R. Canoy Jr. (On the r-Differentiability of the Primitives of Henstock Integrable Functions with Values in a Hilbertian CN-space with Nuclearity, Matimyas Matematika 23(2) 1-8, 2000).

Yvette Fajardo-Lim (The Bandwidth of the Cartesian Product of a Double Star and a Path, The Manila Journal of Science 4(1) 29-37, 2001)

Michael M. Alba (Household Vulnerability to Employment Shocks, 1997-1998, Philippine Review of Economics 38(1) 53-91, 2001)

Outstanding book awardees:

Tito J. Rimando (Ornamental Horticulture: A Little Giant in the Tropics, SEAMEO Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture, 2001)

Neil Aldrin D. Mallari, Blas R. Tabaranza and Michael J. Crosby (Key Conservation Sites in the Philippines: A Haribon Foundation and Birdlife International Directory of Important Bird Areas, Bookmark Inc., 2001)

Raul Pertierra, Eduardo F. Ugarte, Alicia Pingol, Joel Hernandez and Nikos Lexis Dacanay (Txt-ing Selves: Cell Phones and Philippine Modernity, De La Salle Press Inc., 2002)

Eduardo T. Gonzalez, Charmaine G. Ramos, Gemma Esther B. Estrada, Leslie V. Advincula-Lopez and Gregorio Luis A. Igaya (Managing Urbanization Under a Decentralized Governance Framework, Vol. 2, Demographic Research and Development Foundation Inc., and the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), 2001)

Outstanding monograph awardees:

Domingo E. Angeles and Leon O. Namuco (Go Global, Grow Royal Fruits of the Tropics, SEAMEO Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research, 1999)

Jaime C. Montoya and Renato B. Dantes (Clinical Practice Guidelines on the Diagnosis, Treatment and Control of Tuberculosis, Philippine Society for Microbiology and Infectious Diseases and the Philippine College of Chest Physicians, 2000)

Congratulations to the awardees, and may they continue in their mission of discovery and dissemination.

WOLFGANG Roehr, left, developed products that are based on herbal extracts researched and developed by Dietmar Rummel.

Plant medicine gets latest commendation

By Charles E. Buban

THE WORLD Health Organization estimates that 75 percent to 80 percent of the world's population uses plant medicines either in part or entirely for health care.

For many of these people, natural alternatives that have few side effects are preferable than synthetic counterparts. For others, plant medicines are a necessity, as today's drugs are fast becoming unaffordable for most buyers.

"Many plant medicines have largely been ignored in recent years due to lack of clinical evidence supporting their ability to provide preventive and holistic health care," said Wolfgang Roehr, founder and chair of Roehr Nature+Science.

Standardized extracts

Times have changed and numerous studies are now attesting to the efficacy of some of these plants.

"We need products with the least side effects, able to target the root cause of the disease, can be used for long-term production and have the highest quality and efficacy," Roehr said.

Using standardized extracts of several plants endemic to the Philippines, like *ampalaya*, *banaba* and *malunggay*, Roehr Nature+Science came up with several health care products that are more potent, have no side effects and are quite affordable.

"Standardized extracts are a fortified concentrate of natural raw herbs or materials and supplements produced in conformity with Good Manufacturing Practice (pGMP)," according to Dietmar Rummel, director for Research and Development of Roehr Nature+Science.

The pGMP guarantees potency and consistency in the amount of active ingredients extracted.

Local plants remarkable

Rummel said the plants they studied here were remarkable because they contain ingredients that work under controlled conditions.

Said Rummel: "Modern standardization as a result of controlled research is the latest phase in herbal extracts. Through German technology we are able to elevate the status of herbal and plant medicine and place them side by side with today's conventional synthetic products."

For its raw materials, the company relies on farmers cooperatives and organizations whose produce are sent to extraction centers in Switzerland, India, China and United States.

"Through these groups we can assure that the plants for our products are of good quality, organically grown and free from diseases," said Roehr. "At the same time, we help farmers by providing them a steady source of income."

He said his company was planning to build extraction sites in the Philippines.

OBESITY

Now a global epidemic

By Dr. Augusto D. Litonjua
Contributor

THE WORLD carries a heavy weight on its shoulders these days. If three decades ago, it was busy contemplating on how to address the problem of malnutrition, at present, the greatest risk the world is facing is overnutrition. Sad to say, obesity has become the latest epidemic to hit nations worldwide. And it is no laughing matter as it brings forth diseases that can lead to mortality.

According to the World Health Organization, as of 2000, there were over 300 million obese people all over the world. And the numbers will multiply in the years to follow as obesity turns out to be one of the most pressing issues among children.

Obesity-related diseases like type 2 diabetes, heart disease, stroke and cancer were rarely seen in Asia and the Pacific decades ago. However, today, they account for six out of 10 deaths, according to WHO officials.

Recent statistics from the International Obesity Task Force show that more than 50 percent of the obese population reside in developing nations. Of the 300 million obese people worldwide, 22 million are children under the age of 5.

Who is to blame?

Just who is to blame for this global epidemic? People, especially in developing countries, have been placing weight on the wrong matters. Restaurants offer bigger servings. Technology allows for less activity. In other words, people are eating more calories than what they are actually burning off in a normal day.

The consumption of excess fatty food and physical inactivity play major roles in the development of being overweight. While fat is an essential component of a balanced diet, excess dietary fat contributes to excess body weight as it provides twice the number of calories per gram of weight as carbohydrates and protein. This, along with a sedentary lifestyle, will eventually result in being overweight and a number of medical problems, including high blood pressure, high cholesterol, breathing problems, sleep disorders, common arthritis, and Syndrome X, a cluster of conditions that when occurring together indicate a predisposition to diabetes, hypertension and heart disease. Obese women are also susceptible to breast and uterus cancer while men are most likely to contract colon and prostate cancer. Research shows that 70 percent of considerably overweight people develop at least one of these health problems.

Managing one's weight

It is about time people change their lifestyles and take preventive measures to manage their weight and secure their health. More than just for esthetic reasons, the condition of obesity should be addressed as it brings diseases that could lead to their untimely demise. Hopefully, the world will soon see the time when neither undernutrition nor overnutrition among its burdens.

A lot of people have tried to combat the issue of being overweight by visiting the gym and following a recommended diet. However, after a few tiresome months with still no evident results, many give up. Studies reveal that going on a short-term weight-loss program actually does no good since people lose 10 percent of their body weight (although not as apparent) but regain two-thirds of it within a year, and almost all of it in five years.

Do not lose hope though as obesity is proven to be one of the most preventable causes of death, second only to smoking. Take care of your health. Watch your weight by sticking to a healthy diet, exercising regularly, and, under the recommendation of doctors, popping safe weight-reducing pills like Xenical.

Xenical is a prescription medication that has taken Europe and the US by storm as it prevents fat from being absorbed by the body and eliminates undigested fat without suppressing your appetite.

Take action now before your health takes its toll. Safeguard your well being with regular physical activity, diet and, when recommended by your doctor, Xenical. These three will certainly lead to a life that is healthy and free from any disease brought about by obesity.

Microbioterrorism of the airways

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

I RECEIVED an e-mail that "terrorized" me. Raul Eugene Castillo, brand manager of the antibiotic Ceclor, sent me some reading materials on the big threat posed by respiratory tract infections, or RTIs, to developing countries like the Philippines.

The injudicious use of antibiotics even for common viral infections is doing more harm than good in stemming the increasing prevalence of RTIs in children and adults.

This common practice, frequently due to self-medication, is just promoting antibiotic resistance, such that even potent antibiotics don't work anymore when one really needs them. It's also making the microbe resistant to some antibiotics.

This is likely the reason we're now seeing the emergence of what looks like mutated bacteria and viruses—such as the SARS virus—which are making all available antimicrobials seem like placebo.

I agree with Raul that in this day and age when terrorism is a major threat on international security and economic health, microbioterrorism of the airways can be a more catastrophic threat, destabilizing the health and survival of millions of children and adults worldwide. It's sad that we're literally sabotaging ourselves with the indiscriminate use of antibiotics.

I join the rest in commending the efforts of Raul and Eli Lilly in campaigning for the judicious use of antibiotics to prevent resistance. It's good to note that older antibiotics like Ceclor, which has been in the market for 22 years now, are still effective for most RTIs, so we can reserve the really strong antibiotics for severe infections.

Pressure from patients

It's ironic that sometimes, the pressure to prescribe antibiotics comes from the patients themselves. Some see a doctor for cough and fever of one or two days and they feel shortchanged when the doctor only prescribes them antipyretics.

Many doctors succumb to the pressure of prescribing more potent medicines, including antibiotics.

I believe a lecture from my good friend, Dr. Sally Gatchalian, a pediatric infectious disease specialist who prescribes antibiotics sparingly and only when truly needed, would help in instituting a more rational use of antibiotics.

Peter Cole, a professor of respiratory medicine at the Royal Brompton Hospital in the United Kingdom, came here recently to lecture before top general practitioners, internists, lung specialists and pediatricians about RTIs.

Two distinguished local experts also talked on the subject. Dr. Manolito Chua, overall training officer at the Research Institute of Tropical Medicine, discussed the "Epidemiology of respiratory tract infections in the Philippines" and Dr. Benjamin Co, director of the Bioavailability Unit and associate professor at the University of Santo Tomas Hospital, gave his insights on "Antibiotics: Oldies, are they still goodies?"

Causes of infections

The experts said there are hundreds of bacteria and viruses that can cause RTIs which are extremely contagious and are spread by direct contact like shaking hands, sharing food or drink, coughing and sneezing. They are easily spread from the hands to the upper respiratory tract by touching the eyes, nose or mouth.

Haemophilus influenzae, or *H. influenzae*, is a group of bacteria that may cause different types of infections. It is a small, nonmotile, highly adaptive bacterium which was first erroneously thought to be the cause of influenza.

H. influenzae most commonly causes ear, eye or sinus infections and pneumonia. The bacteria live in the upper respiratory tract and are usually transmitted through close contact with an infected individual. Droplets in the air from a sneeze can be inhaled and may also cause infection.

Professor Cole said one main triggering factor of RTI is tobacco smoke. Children and adults with weak immune defenses can be highly susceptible to secondhand smoke which can lead to recurrent RTIs and other more serious problems.

It's hard to believe that smokers—my own friends and kin included—can live with the thought that they're jeopardizing the health of their loved ones by smoking inside the house, converting everyone—including their young children—into passive smokers.

Tobacco smoke alters the nature of the secretions in the airways, making them more tenacious, thus impairing the ability of the lungs to clear them.

The nicotine in tobacco also promotes the growth of *H. influenzae* which may lead to a more severe type of lower RTI. It can even lead to infection in the brain lining called meningitis.

Managing infections

Antibiotics are used to treat infections caused by *H. influenzae*. Antibiotics will help in these cases, and are deemed judicious. The length of treatment varies depending on the location and severity of the infection.

Other than medication, the most recommended management for upper respiratory tract infections are ample rest and plenty of fluids. A steaming bowl of soup may help relieve congestion by loosening nasal secretions. Mild croup can be treated at home with rest, fluids and a humidifier. However, children and adults with severe cough may need to be hospitalized.

So the next time you have colds, flu-like symptoms or any other viral infection, do yourself a big favor by not self-medicating with antibiotics. The reminder also goes to some physicians who employ a shotgun approach by prescribing potent antibiotics even for viral infections.

Antibiotics are potent medicines and should only be used when really indicated.

Boosting one's immunity vs infection

OUR generation is witnessing an ever-increasing number of viruses and bacteria that are becoming resistant to many antibiotics.

The latest infectious threat is SARS, or the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome. With no antiviral agent yet against the disease, people are anxious to find ways to protect themselves from it. Little do people realize that the human body possesses one of the best defenses against dreaded diseases like SARS.

The main elements of the immune system are the thymus gland, bone marrow, spleen and the lymphatic system with white blood cells and lymphocytes. The immune system is the body's designated guard. It works both pro-actively and protectively to shield one from anything in the world that threatens one's life and limb.

Of all the cells in the immune system, the lymphocyte, or the T- 4 helper cell, is the most important because it is responsible for many key functions of immunity. It secretes lymphokines and cytokines, such as interleukin-2 and interferon, which act as messengers to inform another special lymphocyte, T-8 killer cells, what and where to attack invading pathogens.

It is therefore important to boost the immune system to become more resistant to diseases. This could be done through a healthy diet, exercise and drugs which boost the immune system.

One of the drugs known to boost the immune system is Isoprinosine. It acts to revitalize the functioning of various cells vital in enabling the body to put up a strong defense against many types of diseases and infections.

Isoprinosine also inhibits replication of the disease-producing virus directly by suppressing synthesis of proteins in the virus, and indirectly by potentiating synthesis of the person's lymphocytic RNA that is depressed following viral infection. It has no adverse effect on the individual's healthy cells.

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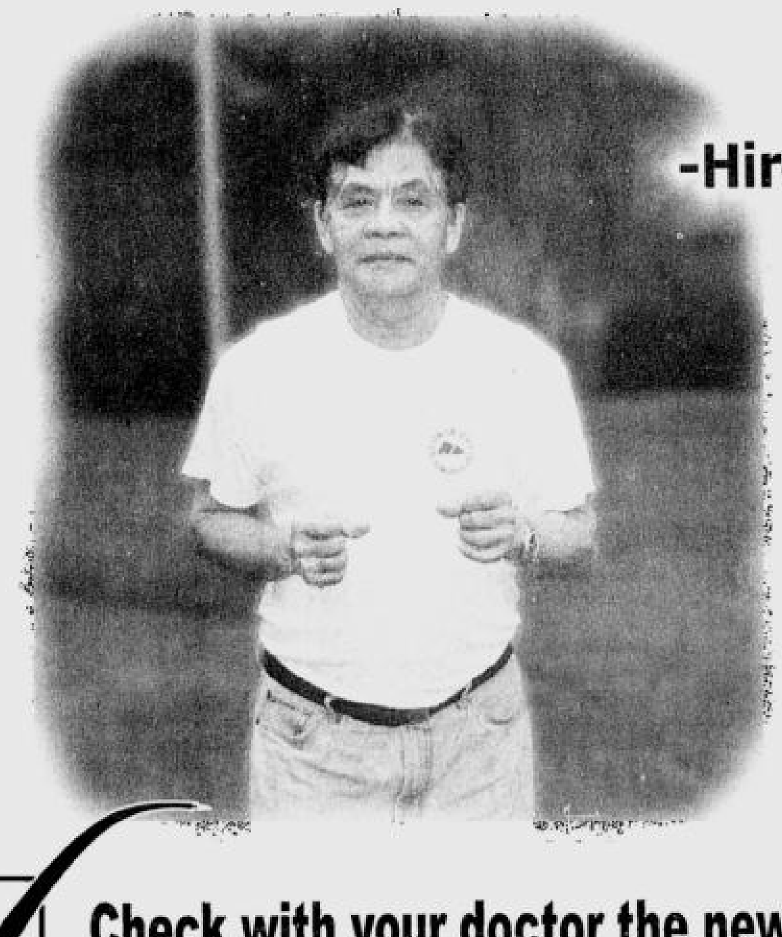

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REFERENCES:
[1] Kjekshus et al. Reducing the risk of Coronary Events: Evidence from the Scandinavian Simvastatin Survival Study (4S) Am J Cardiol 1995; 76:64C-68C,
[2] Heart Protection Study Collaborative Group MRC/BHF Heart Protection Study of cholesterol lowering with simvastatin in 20,536 high-risk individuals: a randomized placebo controlled trial. The Lancet 2002 July; 360 (9326): 7-22.

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Ford unit in RP to jack up car exports by 700%

By Michelle V. Remo

FORD Motor Co. Philippines, the sole exporter of completely built cars in the country, targets to boost its exports by 700 percent in the next five years and make the country the second biggest car exporter in the Southeast Asian region.

This translates to over 100,000 units of car exports from the current 10,000.

Henry Co, president of Ford Philippines, said in a briefing that the company was projecting to export 14,000 units of cars this year. Its export markets in the region include Thailand and Indonesia.

"I believe we can achieve the target 100,000 units of exports) with the support from the government, such as through (provision of) incentives, proper policies and excise taxation that will create a healthier environment," said Co during yesterday's celebration marking the 10,000th vehicle export of Ford at its plant in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Ford generated $155 million from the export of 10,000 cars.

The models covered in Ford's Vehicle Export program are the Escape, Lynx, Mazda Tribute and Mazda 323.

The export initiative, which comes under the Asean Industrial Cooperation (Aico) program, supports a multilateral policy allowing the trading of vehicles at preferential tariffs of zero to 5 percent.

"These achievements show that the Asean Free Trade Area has much to offer. By addressing Asean demand, we have ramped up production from 2,500 vehicles to an expected 14,000 units this year. Only by addressing the needs of our neighbors are we able to produce this kind of volume," said Co. in a statement.

'Polites, idiotes' and transformative communities

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

I ASKED Johnathan Terceo, a Benguet farmer leader and part of Alyansa Agricultura," What do you think is the relationship between the Greek words *polites and idiotes*?" He answered, "None. Many politicians are smart and are far from idiots. For example, Governors Molintas and Malinias and Mayor Fongwan from the Cordillera region successfully helped us win against the vegetable smugglers."

In fact the Greek word *polites* means citizens and the verb *politeuein* means "to be engaged in the affairs of the *polis* (or community)". According to UP Professor Felipe Miranda, in the early years, *polites* meant citizens who each took care of the welfare of their communities. As the population grew, some became irresponsible, pursuing only their self-interest. These people were then called *idiotes*. Terceo laughingly but wisely said, "It is up to us farmers to organize ourselves to help ensure that politicians live up to the original meaning of *polites* and win over the *idiotes*."

It is this *polite's* spirit of responsibility for the communities' welfare that motivated 68 leaders from the public and private sectors to a "writeshop" on building transformative communities. These leaders came from the farmer and fisherfolk sector, the urban poor, people's organizations, nongovernment organizations, government agencies, the legislature and elective officials from the municipal, provincial and national government. The two-day activity was sponsored by the Foundation for the Advancement of Filipina Women (FAFW), the Center for Asia Pacific Women in Politics (Capwin) and the Canadian International Development Agency (Cida). Four transformative community models were discussed: the Kababaihang Barangay of San Miguel, Bulacan; the Zone 1 Tondo (ZOTO); the Naga City government and the Bohol Future Renaissance Program. De La Salle Professor Antonio Contreras summarized the highlights of the conference that are particularly relevant to small farmers and fisherfolk.

Transformative communities

These are made up of people who actively collaborate to change their community into a more humane, just and democratic society. They work for the enhancement of every member's quality of life through self-reliance, mutual help, solidarity and creativity. They pursue its goals through consensus and are able to engage the existing power structures.

Transformed community members believe in the following rights: to pursue their own individual development, to participate in the development of their communities, to determine their own agenda for their own development, to choose the leaders who can lead them in carrying out their agenda, to hold these leaders accountable for their actions and to be informed of the problems and opportunities that come along the way. The key success indicators the "writeshop" participants identified were that they were self-conscious of their capacity to become managers of change, practiced the culture of participation and self reliance, have the capacity to be independent of outside pressures detrimental to their welfare and, most importantly, believed that their community was a growing entity that has a spirit and soul by itself which they want to develop based on a clear value system.

Development stages

In order to achieve these objectives and exhibit these key indicators, the participants described the five stages a transformative community went through: *Dangal* (worth): individuals collectively realize their self worth; 2. *Lakas* (strength): they acknowledge their strength in numbers; 3. *Balankas* (structure): they recognize the necessity of enabling structures; 4. *Sandiwa* (sharing): they advocate the value of like mindedness and sharing even as diversity is respected; and 5. *Pagkakaisa* (unity): they achieve the goal of individuals and collectives by becoming united.

For these communities, consensus building is the norm. This replaces the dictatorial and elitist processes that currently characterize power relations and decision making in many places. As these transformative communities enter into principled collaboration with government agencies and other external actors, there is also a need for principled divergence. This way, a mutually beneficial solution is arrived at which is different from what has been traditionally seen as adversarial relationships.

Conclusion

Terceo and other members of the transformed community of Benguet vegetable farmers have achieved great success in the anti-smuggling drive in collaboration with the Bureau of Customs and the Department of Agriculture. Smuggling has dropped from an initial 40 percent rate to less than one percent. They have gotten the backing of their governor, their mayor and other public and private sector supporters in this effort. Dionicio Martes, one of their leaders who resigned because of his disappointment over alleged government inaction and insensitivity, has rejoined the community because he is a true example of *polites* and not *idiotes*. Challenges remain. They say their best ally in Customs has been transferred out and a person they have serious doubts about has just been given a critical position in the Department of Agriculture. They believe some powerful *idiotes* are behind these moves. But they will continue the fight. For it is transformative communities like this that will succeed in helping small farmers and bringing back the spirit of *polites* not only to our officials but also to our nation.

(The author is chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative, former Undersecretary of agriculture and trade and chair/Secretary, Presidential Flagship Programs and Project. For inquiries or suggestions, e-mail agriwatch@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8516635)

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SATURDAY Special

Editor Nestor U. Torre

Unseen stars of animated films boost their appeal

ZETA-JONES. Lends her famous voice to character in "Sinbad."

LOS ANGELES—For their children or for friendship, Hollywood stars are lending their famous voices to characters in animated features.

Advertisements

The faces of Catherine Zeta-Jones, Michelle Pfeiffer and Brad Pitt adorned advertisements for Dreamworks studios's "Sinbad: Legend of the Seven Seas," which unreeled in US theaters on July 2.

Unfortunately, in the movie itself, their beautiful faces can't be seen.

But that doesn't matter to animation expert Jim Hill.

"What really matters is that before the release, the stars are everywhere—interviews, magazines, television, sign ads—and this makes you (want) to see the film," he said.

Since 1998, when the unique voice of Woody Allen joined that of actress Sharon Stone in the film "Antz," Dreamworks has used the actors' fame as publicity.

"Just like Steven Spielberg wants the best for his movies, we want the best talent in the world, too," Dream-

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Musical updates enliven CCP concert

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST Friday, July 11, we caught "Lagi Kitang Mamahalin," the CCP's musical tribute to the country's National Artists. Songs penned by artists like Felipe Padilla de Leon, Levi Celerio, and Lucio San Pedro were performed by show biz stars (Sharon Cuneta, Gary Valenciano, Ayen Munji, Verni Varga and Jolina Magdangal). Standouts were:

MUNJI. Really classy in a musical excerpt from "Dalagang Bukid."

Medley

- Carlo Orosa, JM Rodriguez, Noel Rayos, Arnold Reyes and Tonipet Gaba enthusiastically singing and dancing the "Pitonggatang na Kalesahan" Medley, with lyrics by Levi Celerio and music by Tony Maiquez, Ernani Cuenco, Ray Alinsod and Juan Silos Jr.

The five male singer-dancers were exceptional not only as soloists, but also as an ensemble. Their energy and spirit did a lot to lift the "old" songs they were performing out of the *baul* of nostalgia, into music that can entertain and excite audiences today.

We should do more musical updates like this to show that our "classics" can live and be enjoyed by audiences long after their composers and lyricists are no longer with us. Isn't this one of the

MUSICAL/ C7

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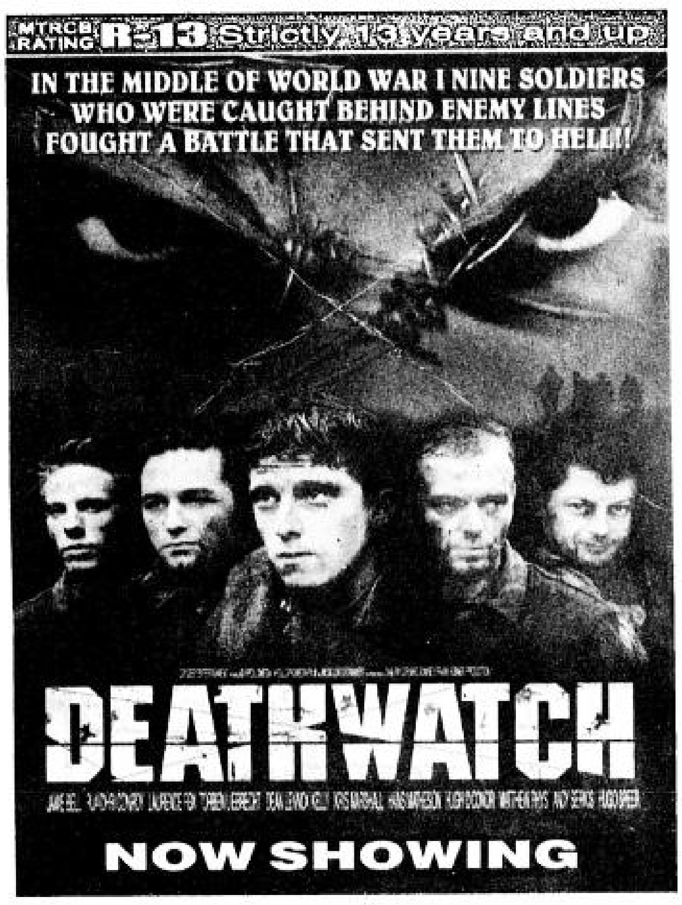

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ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	UNFAITHFUL CUNCUBINE/KANA 2
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	TERMINATOR 3
B	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	DUMB & DUMBERER
CINEMA-2	HUNTED
CINEMA-3	BIGLANG LIKO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TERMINATTOR 3
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	CHARLIES ANGELS 2
CINEMA-6	TUKAAN
CINEMA-7	HOT SPOT
CINEMA-8	MASAMANG UGAT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	DOWN WITH LOVE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TERMINATTOR 3
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
CINEMA-12	JACKASS
CINEMA-14	IMPOSTOR
CINEMA-15	BANGKOK HANUTED
LORES	
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Metallica proves doomsayers wrong

METALLICA. New-found serenity.

By Noelani Torre

(Conclusion)

"'ST. ANGER' means to me that now that we've found our serenity, we're capable of making this monster of an album go full-throttle all the time," said Hetfield. "Anger is an energy. It's a feeling. I could squeeze out sideways with rage and stuff the sh— down, yet it can be such a source of strength."

New groove

The album title itself, though it may sound contradictory, is an embodiment of Metallica's new groove. Their new-found serenity has given them the emotional space they need to fully express—in all-out head-banging style—the anger fostered by the past five years' frustrations.

"The early days of Metallica were about brotherhood," Hetfield explained, "just survival mode, relying on each other and stuff. As the machine gets bigger, you tend to forget about the friendship part and start worrying about where the machine is going. You get a little more protective, more isolated.

"Certain factors ignited the need to look inward again and just get to be friends. Now we're stronger than ever because we know what we're doing and we have experience on our side, too."

Positive energy

"St. Anger," the band claims, was made with positive energy. They didn't "beat the songs to death" as they were wont do in pre-crisis days. So don't be surprised if you find a few mistakes here and there, even some minor irritating glitches that could have been smoothed out in the studio.

The band members decided to focus more on each other than on virtuosity, and though that makes for a lot of rough edges, it also makes the songs more textured and interesting.

The album has some weak tracks, however, especially the song "My World" which sounds like something an angst-ridden teenage metal band would come up with. Still, these are minor quibbles, and the adolescent moaning in "It's my world/ You can't have it" is certainly eclipsed by such sentiments as "I ain't dancing with your skeletons/ I ain't dancing with what might have been" and the brutal album-ender, "Kill, kill, kill, kill, kill."

Another variation from the usual in this album, and a manifestation of the bandmates' desire to be more open and collaborative with one another, is the inclusion of guitarist Kirk Hammett in the lyric-writing process, which in the past was exclusively done by Hetfield and Ulrich.

Great experience

"At first I was like, I don't want anything to do with this, this is James' job," said Hammett. But, after putting pen to paper, he realized, "[I]t was a great experience and I think it's all in line with the theme of the album, which is just being true to yourself, and how important that is to the overall picture."

With "St. Anger," we find the band rethinking their stand on the Internet. Inside every CD is a card with an access code to metallicavault.com, which has three concerts' worth of free downloadable music, as well as other cool freebies. This will surely make fans more than happy, and erase the sour lingering memories of the Napster debacle.

Longtime producer Bob Rock does the bass for this album, through the band has since found a replacement in Suicidal Tendencies' Rob Trujillo. "He pounds," said Hetfield of their newest member. "He's a ball of energy and he's so calm and able and balanced. He's got great stuff to offer, but his personality is just right."

With a new bassist, a new kick-ass album, and a new attitude (family first, among other things), Metallica seems well set on another decade of raging, furious, and always challenging sound.

Unseen stars of animated . . .

From page C1

works cofounder Jeffrey Katzenberg told USA Today.

"What's been wonderful is that the best talent has actually wanted to work in animation in the last number of years." However, for many experts, the voice-overs are just another way to ensure box office success by attracting adults as well as children.

Weekend success

"You have to understand the way Hollywood works: Everything is done to be a weekend success," Hill said.

"The world of animated films is a very competitive and profitable one," BoxOfficeGuru.com editor Gitesh Pandya told AFP.

"Often, studios will hire A-list actors to play the voices of main characters."

"There are always exceptions like 'The Lion King' and 'Finding Nemo,' which have only medium-size stars but grossed incredible amounts of money." Sometimes the cost of top-line stars can pay off.

In 1992, Disney was first to surpass the $200-million box-office mark with an animated film, thanks in part to Robin Williams's rapid-fire voice as the genie in "Aladdin." However the underwater animated "Finding Nemo," the most recent Andrew Stanton production—following the hit "Toy Story" and "A Bug's Life"—features lesser-knowns who nonetheless bring to life the main characters.

The young "Nemo" is voiced by nine-year-old actor Alexander Gould, while the fish's father is played by Albert Brooks. Ellen DeGeneres also lends her voice.

The high-tech Pixar film grossed $265 million in its first six weeks of release.

Track record

"Nemo's success has more to do with Pixar making a quality film and the company's track record, which made people take a chance on seeing it," Pandya said.

"Most of the cast could have been switched with other stars and the grosses would have been the same." But "Sinbad," taken from the pages of "A Thousand and One Nights," needed stars with an automatic draw, since it is a more traditional animated feature, Hill said.

Such adventure films have a record of notable failures, such as Dreamworks's "The Road to El Dorado." The actors don't always have their eyes on the income.

"I have nieces and nephews that I'm crazy for and I wanted to do something they could see," Brad Pitt, who plays the most daring swashbuckler on the seven seas, told E! entertainment television.

AFP

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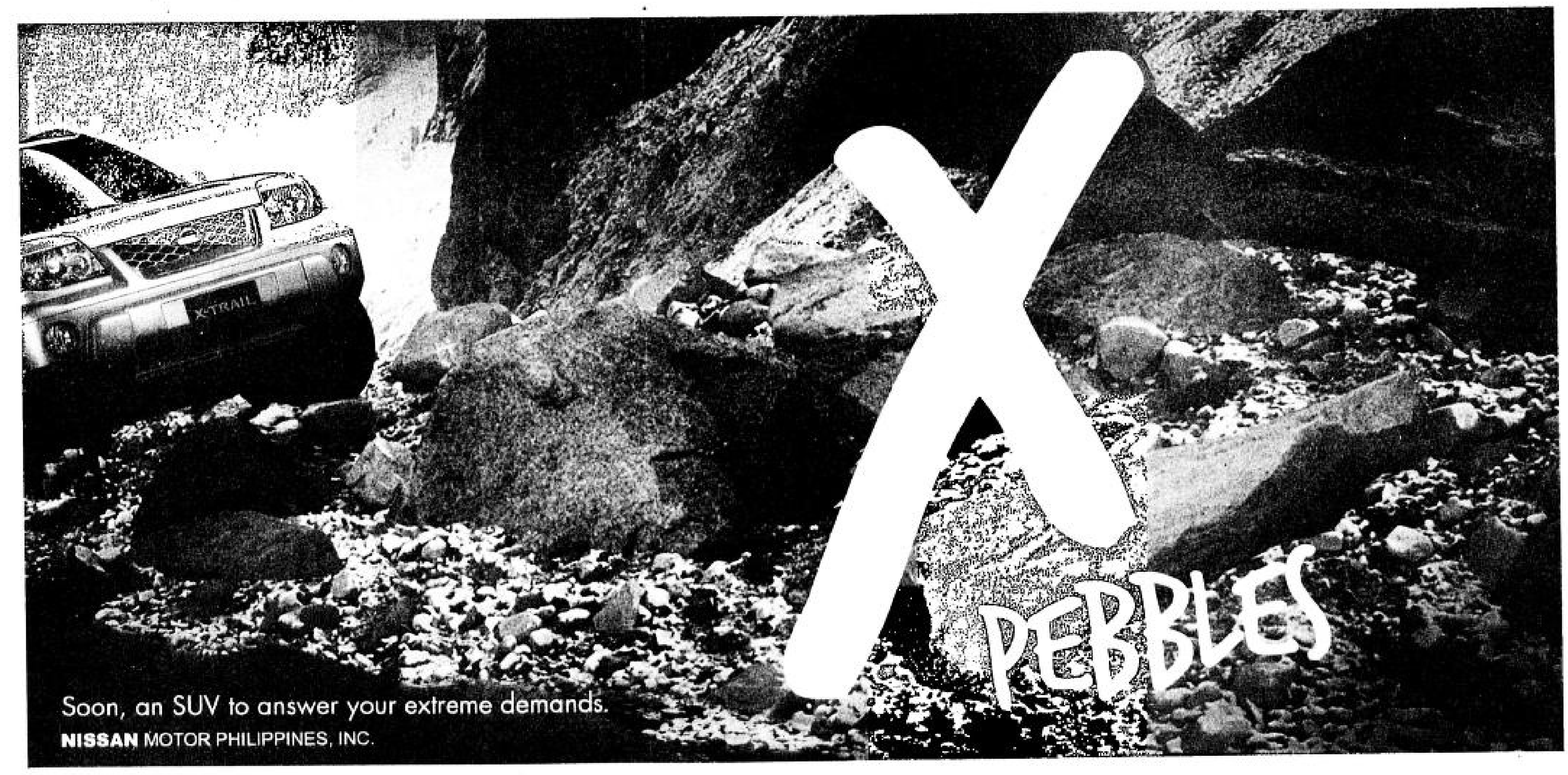
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AM/FM

Former teen star reinvents himself as savvy radio host

By Rito P. Asilo

AS we scanned the AM band on a rainy Tuesday night, we listened to 15-year-old tunes, like Sheena Easton's "Strut" and Rod Stewart's '80s hit, "Some Guys Have All the Luck," before we settled on a show that caught our attention.

Fresh air

It was a whiff of fresh air in a time slot filled with medical and pseudo-medical advice shows. The male host's voice sounded familiar. When his co-host, Mary Ann Villanueva, exclaimed, *"Naku, Kuya Jojo at Ate Mean na ang tawag nila sa atin!,"* referring to their listeners, our suspicion was confirmed that the male voice belonged to former teen star Jojo Alejar ("That's Entertainment"), who is reinventing himself as a host on Radyo Agila dzEC's "Sey Mo, Sey Ko" (1072 kHz, 9-10 p.m., weekdays).

"Sey Mo, Sey Ko" is not your usual Tiya Dely/Kuya Cesar advice show in its traditional mold—not that there's anything wrong with a show like that. But the advice the hosts dish out is practical, without the usual schmaltzy rhetorics. Each piece of advice is then followed by Hallmark-worthy cliches, like "Where there's sacrifice, there's genuine love" or *"Kung gusto, maraming paraan; Kung ayaw, maraming dahilan."*

Text revolution

The text revolution presents a venue for callers to share their problems in all their unbridled candor. But as with most things that are fast-tracked, some details are lost along the way. While actual voice calls can reveal every gritty detail of a listener's problem, a text message will only tell so much.

Example: *"Nagtiwala ako sa best friend at boyfriend ko. Tapos, niloko lang nila ako."*

A text message leaves no chance for the host to probe deeper into the problem. (Has she been nagging him? Has she been loyal to him? Or, are her boyfriend and best friend of the same gender? These are questions that may seem funny, but are really relevant.)

The program's title suggests a "he said-she said" format, but on this show, the hosts agree on everything—at least on the night that we tuned in. Of course, it would have been interesting to listen to different perspectives on the sexes—but, hey, it's their show!

And, on the show's one-hour running time, they manage to address quite a number of their callers' problems: One listener wishes, *"Sana, tayo pa rin kahit may mahal ka nang iba."* Their advice: "Learn to let go."

(To be concluded)

ALEJAR. Co-hosts "Sey Mo, Sey Ko" on Radyo Agila dzEC, 9-10 p.m. weekdays.

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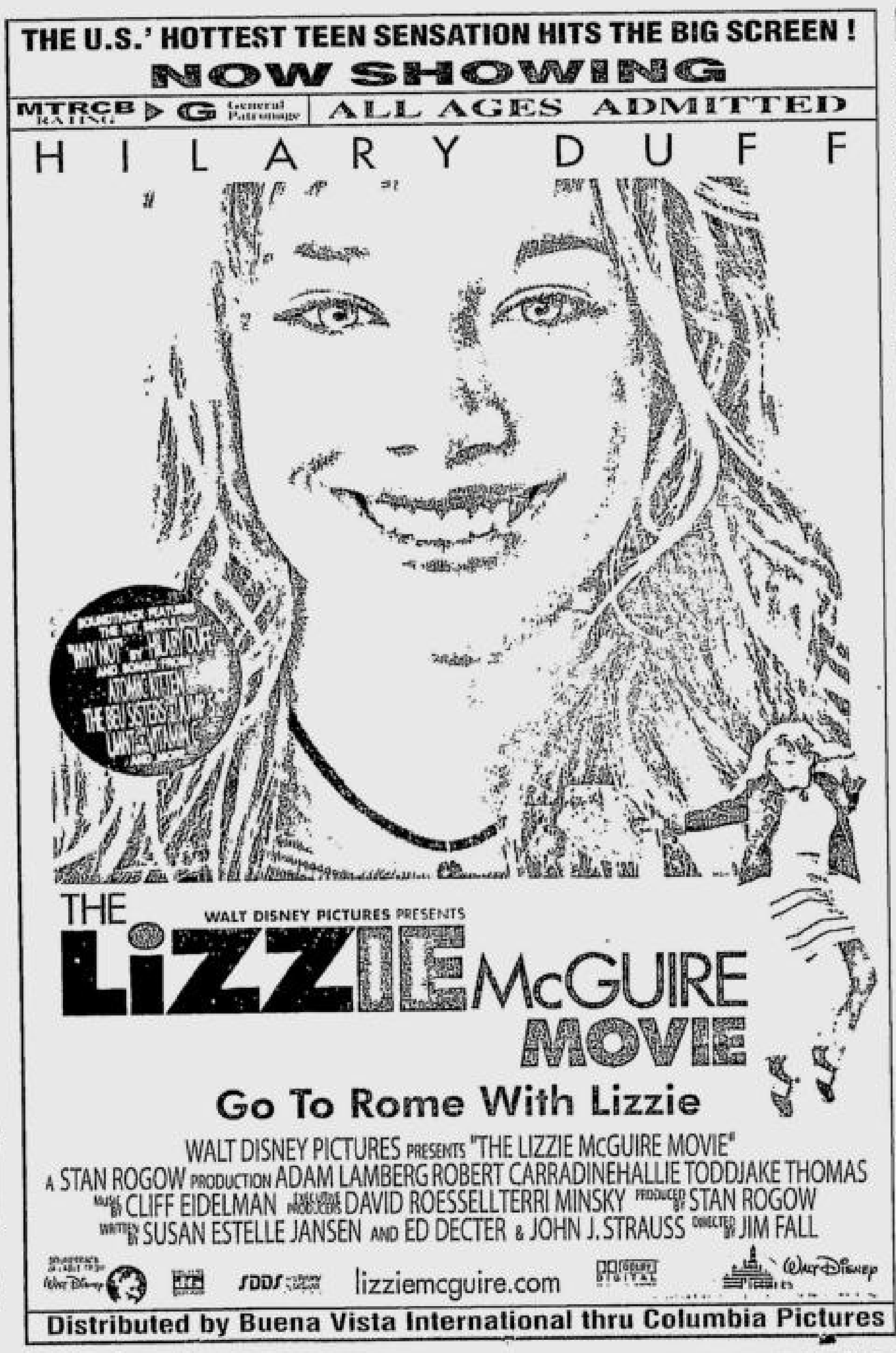

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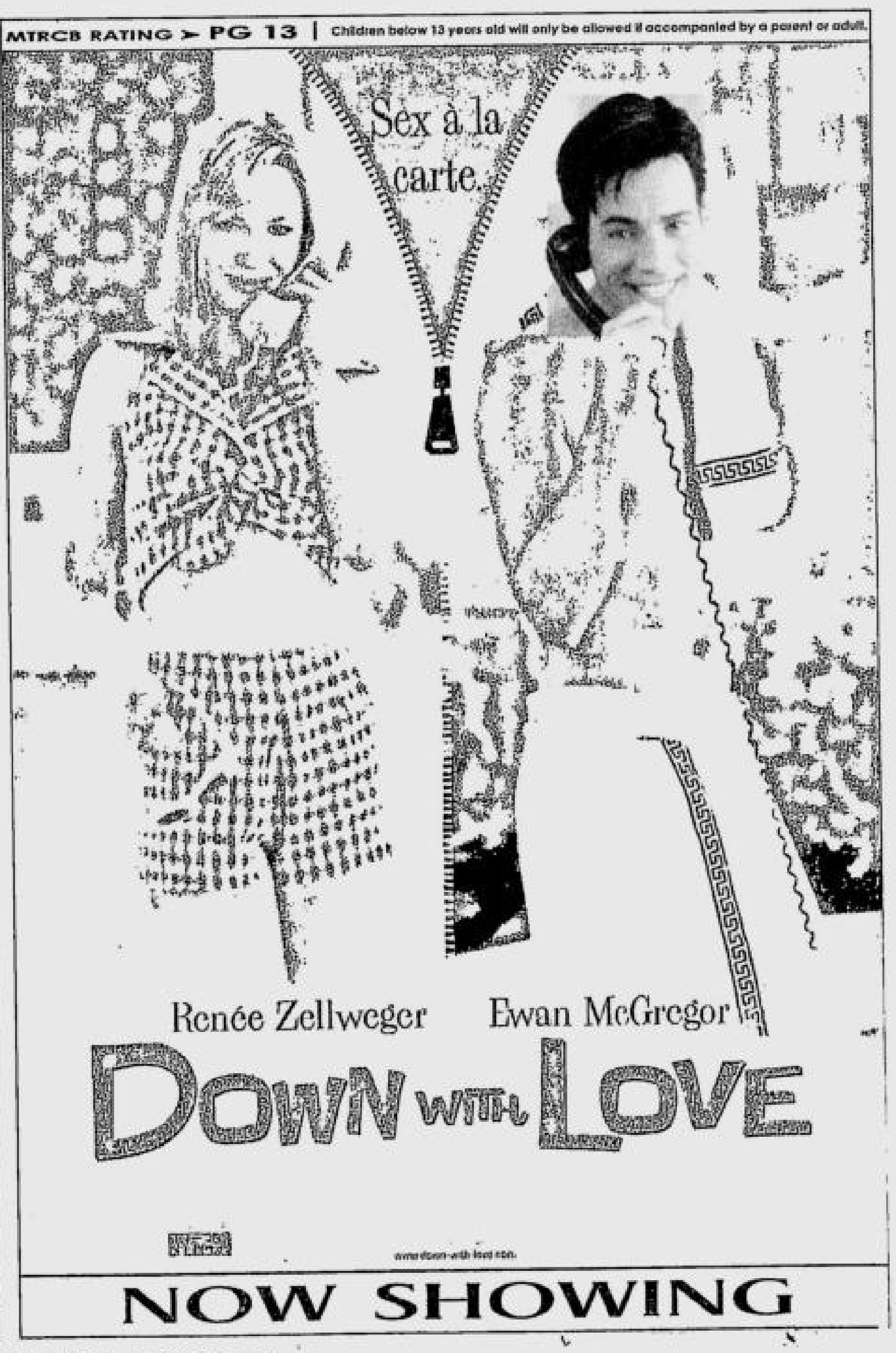

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Monthly finals come up with male winner

By Nestor U. Torre

CHANNEL 7's "Search for A Star" held its first monthly finals last Saturday, with three young weekly winners competing for the top plum that would entitle the monthly champion to compete in the talent tilt's grand finals.

One male and two female singers performed their hearts out in their quest for eventual musical glory.

Three talented tyros

Sarah Geronimo, last year's "Star for A Night" grand champion, was on hand to sing a number with the three talented tyros, and to inspire them to do their absolute best, so that, like her, one of them would eventually romp off with a cool million bucks in prize money, a debut album for Viva Records, etc.

The male weekly winner was the first to sing. He impressed us with his light and tuneful singing voice, and his natural performance style.

His voice was not as reliable as it should have been when he had to sing high notes, but he was unfazed. After he had finished performing, we told ourselves that he could make a worthy monthly champion.

The second monthly finalist was a female looker who had a good voice, but was less of a standout. Still, we liked her for also trying to play it natural, despite the temptation in local singing tilts like this to go for attention-calling diva bleats and melodramatic flourishes in terms of gestures, costuming, etc.

GERONIMO. Inspired the contestants to do their best.

Alas, that's what the third and last contestant went in for. She was a good singer with a powerful voice, but she over-performed and over-sold her song.

Too fancy

And she was a fashion victim, to boot. Some designer chose to wrap her up in a big stole or cape or something much too fancy for her age, and for a singing performance. The stole inhibited her movements and reminded us of *lumpia* and *suman*—definitely not the sort of mental images to conjure up when you're watching a singing tilt!

In future, the show should make it a point to have a styling coordinator on hand, to make sure that contestants are packaged properly, rather than distractingly. If the program already has such a coordinator, we can only plead with him or her to remember that styling is supposed to help and not distract from a performer, or make the singer look trying-hard.

In any case, the monthly finals had an upbeat ending. After intense deliberations, the judges decided to give the prize to the first monthly finalist, Romelo Valeña.

We found the decision encouraging, because it showed that the program was becoming less hung-up on bravura performance than most local singing competitions. Also, since the winner was male, the decision indicated that the show was weaning itself away from the usual preference for young, female singers whom recording companies can more profitably build up after their victory.

Progress

So, some progress is being made, and that's something to feel good about. The decision the judges made last Saturday will also encourage more natural (non-*birit*) singers to try their luck in the competition, and that would be a good thing for the pop music field all around.

In time, local singers may finally realize that it's not how loudly but how well you sing that really counts in musical performance. It would be even better if local *birit*-obsessed music fans realized that, too.

It's all about understanding what's truly significant in singing—not just the voice, but the total persona of the performer. And it's important to keep a performance natural, because that's when listeners can really empathize with a song's lyrics and its interpreter's feelings. All else is musical fire and flurry, signifying lack of genuine depth in the performer—and listener.

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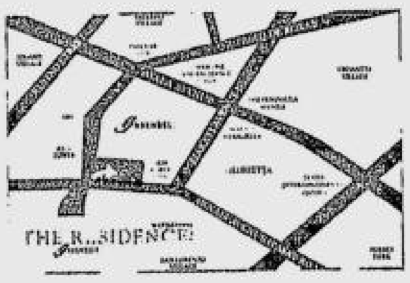

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3 TERMINATOR 3
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6 TERMINATOR 3
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8 IMPOSTOR
9 DEATH WATCH
10 BANGKOK HAUNTED

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7 WILLARD
8 TERMINATOR 3

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3 ADAPTATION
4 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2

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A perfect day with Haydee Yorac and other friends

By Nestor U. Torre

FOR weeks now, our small *barkada* has been vigorously praying for the recovery of the much-loved Haydee Yorac. The situation was touch-and-go there for awhile, but our friend Behn Cervantes recently made our month by happily reporting that Haydee's condition had taken a dramatic turn for the better, and that she had in fact left the hospital and was staying in a condo somewhere in Makati.

Close friends

Behn made arrangements for us and other close friends to visit Haydee. Since we had yet to toast Lollie Mara on her recent birthday, we decided to make a full day of it, following up on our visit to Haydee with a simple birthday dinner for Lollie.

When we met up at the condo unit where Haydee was staying, we were delighted to see that our group of well-wishers included even more good friends—Tita Muñoz, Norma Japitana and Au Cobarrubias. Behn, our group's "social secretary," had surpassed himself once again.

Nurse

Before we could talk to Haydee, we all had to be gowned and masked by a nurse, to make sure that she would get no germs from us. Now properly garbed, we were delighted to see Haydee looking really well. Her dramatic recovery was moving and exhilarating to behold.

Haydee was in her element as she shot the breeze with us, making light of her illness and thanking God for her recovery. There were still some hurdles to overcome, but we trusted that her recovery would proceed apace, so that she could serve the country again as PCGG chair, in her uniquely courageous and principled way.

YORAC. Dramatic recovery.

Sense of humor

It was wonderful to see that, despite her medical problems, Haydee's sense of humor remained bracingly on-target.

Tita Muñoz was herself experiencing some problems in walking, but she didn't allow them to keep her from visiting Haydee. Being a fan of both Tita and Haydee, we were thrilled to see them again, both in the same room.

Not wanting to tire Haydee, we took our leave and headed for Via Mare at Greenbelt 1, where we celebrated Lollie's birthday. Tita navigated the distance by car, cane and wheelchair, that last "vehicle" thanks to the arrangements that Behn had made in advance (he really thinks of everything).

Unique combination

It wasn't easy for Tita, but she gamely joined us in all of our activities that day. And she looked especially lovely, reminding us of how she dazzled audiences when she was the local theater scene's much-admired premiere dramatic diva years ago, thanks to her unique combination of great beauty and even greater talent.

At the dinner table, Tita talked brightly of those halcyon days, which are now the stuff of legend. We told her that we could never forget the time when the late Rolando Tinio rehearsed us for a play in Tita's San Juan apartment, and Rolando was so inspired by the lovely Tita that he wrote poems of "praise and envy" to the different parts of her home!

Ardent poetry

Oh, yes, Tita agreed, those *were* the days of high theatrical art and ardent poetry, perhaps never to come again.

As for birthday girl Lollie, she shared that she felt thrice fulfilled, as mother, grandmother and actress, having resumed her TV-theater-film performing career in a number of multi-media productions.

Au Cobarrubias said ditto to the grandmother part, because she too dotes on her precocious *apos*. Even better, she looks too young to be a *lola*, thanks to her blithely upbeat view of life and her many activities related to helping people help themselves.

Glory days

For her part, Norma Japitana recalled Tita's other glory days, including her "conquest" of some royals' hearts when they attended a film festival in Cambodia. These days, Norma J has her hands full managing the busy likes of Cesar Montano and Rico J. Puno.

After the dinner, Behn had another treat in store for us—a screening of Lars von Trier's "Dancer in the Dark" (starring singer Bjork) at Greenbelt's Art-Film theater. As we watched the fascinating film with other movie buffs, we thanked God for giving us great friends, for healing Haydee,—and for this perfect day!

ABC looks for laughs, scraps reality shows

LOS ANGELES—ABC has dumped summer reality shows, preferring to save money by repeating comedies it hopes will find broader audiences before new shows debut in the fall, executives said on Monday.

Profits

The money-losing network, trying to restore its programming punch, plans more comedies in prime time this fall than rival networks. It hopes profits will follow a return to the type of family-friendly fare that has carried ABC to the top of the ratings in the past.

The upcoming ABC line-up features new shows such as "Hope & Faith," in which former soap opera actress Kelly Ripa plays a washed-out daytime TV star who goes to live with her sister.

To get viewers through the summer, the network has dropped reality shows such as the beauty search, "Are You Hot?"

"Ultimately, I think it was in bad taste," ABC Entertainment chairman Lloyd Braun told reporters at a conference on the fall schedule.

He and president Susan Lyne, the team hired in January of last year to turn around the network, opted for summer repeats of modestly successful shows that they hope can find bigger audiences, such as "According to Jim," starring Jim Belushi.

One exception will be a summer reality show, "The Real Roseanne Show," starring comedian Roseanne Barr.

Braun said that some 20 percent of "Jim's" young adult viewers in the summer had never seen the family comedy during its regular season run.

Network president Alex Wallau told Reuters the repeats were also a way to save money.

Financial strategy

"You have to balance profit and performance," he said. "A smart financial strategy has also been performing well." Executives at Walt Disney Co., which owns ABC, have declined to forecast when the network will turn a profit.

Braun said broadcast networks in general were holding strong against cable shows that had ratings gains at traditional broadcasters' expense in the past few years.

"This is all evening out a little bit," he said, saying they had performed well over the summer. Cable viewership is now at par with network television, although the cable audience is much more fragmented, and Wallau said recent sales for the fall season had showed advertisers wanted the big audiences broadcasters could deliver.

Higher rates

"We walked away from business at 12 percentc higher rates than a year ago," he said. *Reuters*

BARR. To host "The Real Roseanne Show."

Wanted: New filmmakers

By Rica Arevalo

THE 1990s have passed, yet no significant films are remembered. I can only recall the three different "Rizal" films and the rise and fall of *pito-pito* flicks.

Debate

Then, sleazy sex flicks became a national issue. There was a raging debate over artistic freedom among industry stalwarts and the Catholic Church. Who won? No one knows.

When a Filipino short film won in the 2000 Cannes Film Festival, everyone was ecstatic. No one expected Raymond Red to produce "Anino," let alone win the Palme D'Or. It brought some kind of hope to our "dying" film industry. (The industry has been predicted to die for the nth time but is still surviving.)

It is now 2003, yet where are the new films or filmmakers to ignite the new wave of local movies? The usual scenario is that an aspiring filmmaker has to associate himself with the politics of the studio system, but he can veer away from that.

Best films

In the 1940s, the rise of the French New Wave gave critic Francois Truffaut and company the chance to make their best films. The auteur theory was born, wherein the director is viewed as the major creative force in filmmaking. The director allows his intimate self to be seen on the screen by revealing himself with complete frankness.

There is time for directors to make up for lost opportunities, and make their "dream" films. We hope to see directors in their 20s or 30s taking over the reins of filmmaking. We need risk-takers and visionaries. Films must be more personal, scripts should be less slick and free from the formulas manufactured by the vintage studios. Compromises should be fewer, and the directors should be treated as equals by producers.

Digital revolution

It is easier to make a feature film now because of the digital revolution. Get a script, grab a mini DV camera and tap your friends as crewmembers. Actors are willing to share their services for a "promising" project. Independent filmmakers have been doing this for a long time now.

We need excitement in the local film industry—new blood, new storytelling techniques and a new mentality for producers. Filmmaking is an act of love—for the story, aesthetics, and the motion picture itself.

The new filmmakers must unite and stage a revolution. Shatter clichés, forget about promises made by the studios, disregard pitching stories to unscrupulous producers. Shoot the movies you want to make!

Musical updates . . .

From page C2

signs of greatness?

Soul and verve

- Ayen Munji in "Nabasag ang Banga," an excerpt from Leon Ignacio and Hermogenes Ilagan's "Dalagang Bukid." Ayen was really classy in the production number, and sang with wit, soul and verve. She should star in an original Filipino stage musical soon.
- Gary Valenciano and dancers from Ballet Philippines performing "Sa Ugoy ng Duyan," by Lucio San Pedro and Levi Celerio. It was a great idea to have the song performed by a male singer—for a change!
- Bituin Escalante and Sheila Francisco in their feisty, sassy "musical duel" by way of the songs "Galawgaw" and "Alembong," by Juan Silos Jr. and Levi Celerio.
- Verni Varga performing "Bituing Marikit" by Nicanor Abelardo and Servando de los Angeles. Verni was a vision of beauty and delight in her luscious gown and overall styling—it was like watching a stylized kabuki performer interpreting a classic Filipino *kundiman!*
- Jolina Magdangal and Ballet Philippines dancers performing "Waray-Waray" by Juan Silos Jr. and Levi Celerio. The kooky dancers threatened to upstage Jolina, but she fended them off by being even kookier!

Symbol

- Isay Alvarez in a excerpt from "Walang Sugat" titled "Ang Karayom Ay Iduro," about the women who sew the first Philippine flag, which is used as a symbol for their dreams of nationhood, and the courage of Filipino revolutionary troops in the field. Isay's ardent performance raised the scene to the required patriotic level without losing the warmth and sensitive emotion that the scene needed.
- Sharon Cuneta singing "Kahit Konting Pagtingin" by Gomez-Hammond and Levi Celerio. What made the number special was the fact that Sharon was accompanied, not by a full orchestra, but by the gifted young guitarist, Paolo Santos.

Another Asian city is Taken

The multi-million dollar mini-series TAKEN executive produced by two-time Academy Award winner, Steven Spielberg, appears to have done more than just capture the imagination of thousands of viewers in the Philippines. The sci-fi epic has renewed interest in the mysteries of outer space and the question of extra terrestrial life.

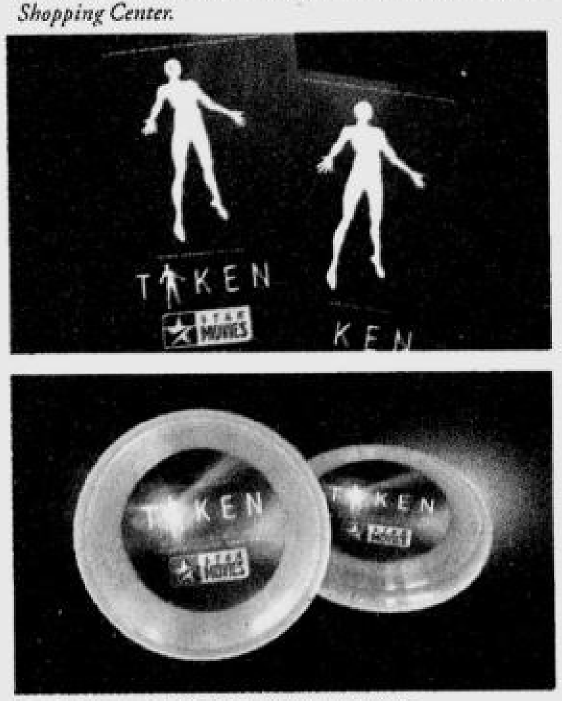
Captivated by the compelling series that chronicles the lives of three families over successive generations and the roles they play in alien abductions, many Filipinos have spent the last two Sunday evenings glued to their TV sets.

Apart from enticing viewers, TAKEN has also inspired heated debate over the existence or otherwise of intelligent life in outer space. Alien sightings are discussed at length in homes, offices, schools, playgrounds and even in the media. Abduction by aliens and the question of alien presence on Earth are hot topics of spirited discussion.

The sudden interest in extra terrestrial intelligence is also owed in part to the publicity given to the TAKEN mini series by the channel on which it is being aired. Star Movies has promoted the gripping serial in print, radio and on-ground events.

Star Movies will be celebrating the event with Automatic Centre in which limited-edition TAKEN memorabilia are offered with the latest television sets. Shoppers will get any one of the following: TAKEN posters, tee-shirts, telescopes, frisbees, bookmarks and ball-pens. This treat can be availed of from July 6-31, 2003.

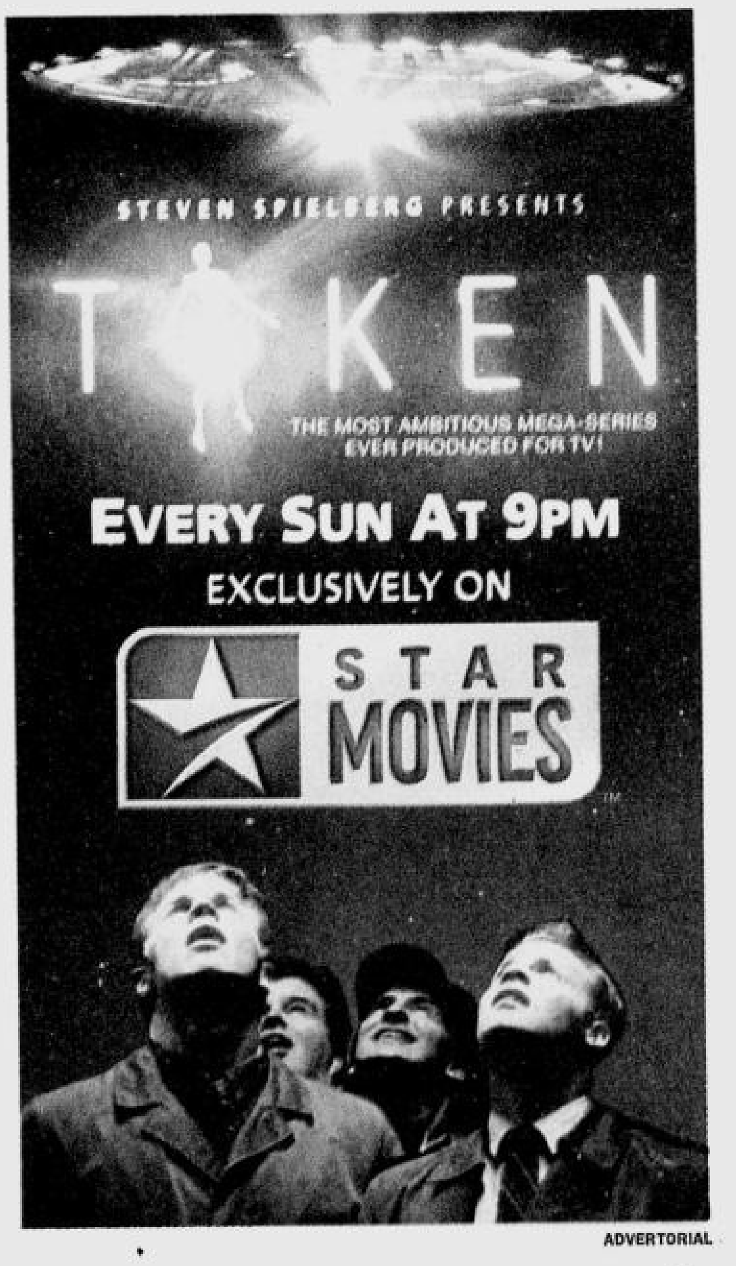
Automatic Centre, the store that has sold more appliances than any other dealer since 1948, is giving TAKEN souvenirs in the following branches: Level 3, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center. Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center; 2/F SM Southmall, Las Pinas City; Level 3, New Wing, Alabang Town Center and Greenhills Shopping Center.



Some of the memorabilia being given away in events

TAKEN
STAR MOVIES

Ms. Laura Cozijnsen representing STAR; Mr. Jaime Licauco, known paranormal psychologist; Mr. Don Escudero, noted Movie Director and Production Designer and Mr. Elmor Escosa, Leader, UFO Investigation Team & Chief, Planetarium Unit of Pag-Asa at a panel discussion on alien abduction.



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ADVERTORIAL

Combs relaunches label with all-star album

By Nekesa Mumbi Moody

NEW YORK—Sean "P. Diddy" Combs called in all favors to secure an all-star lineup for his "Bad Boys II" soundtrack, the first album on his recently revamped Bad Boy record label.

Big soundtrack

"I came to them honestly. I said, 'Can you help me out? When I come back on the scene, I want to come back in a big way with a big soundtrack,'" Combs told the Associated Press. "I wanted to set it off with a bang."

The CD, which drops Tuesday, features Combs, Justin Timberlake, Beyonce, Jay-Z, Snoop Dogg, 50 Cent and Nelly, among others.

If the hip-hop mogul sounds a bit anxious, it's because the soundtrack to the Martin Lawrence-Will Smith action flick is not just another album release for Bad Boy.

Combs' company was a dazzling star of boutique labels in the mid to late 1990s, with hits from acts ranging from the Notorious B.I.G. to Faith Evans to 112 to P. Diddy himself.

But after the murder of Notorious B.I.G. in 1997, hits from other artists became more infrequent, costs soared, and "Bad Boy" began to lose some of its cachet.

Last year, the label ended its 10-year partnership with Arista Records, and Combs sought a new distributor. It took him eight months to find one in Universal Music Group, and he didn't get anywhere near the $100 million deal that he had hoped.

But Combs says he feels his deal with Universal has given him a fresh start and another chance to set the music world on fire—much as he did as a blazing young Uptown Records music executive, when he pioneered the genre of R&B sung over hip-hop beats with acts like Mary J. Bilge and Jodeci.

Second era

"I wanted to make sure as I'm coming into my second era . . . I'm gonna start all over," he said.

Combs, whose entertainment empire also includes his Sean John clothing line and his "Justin's" restaurants, also said he's concerned with "giving the consumers something that they can listen to from beginning to end," instead of just hit singles.

"I definitely feel that the longer I'm in the industry, the pressure to please the fans increases," he said, "and to give them products that they would love."

Besides the "Bad Boys II" soundtrack, Combs plans to release albums from rapper Loon, the teen pop act Dream and a duets album containing archival material from the Notorious B.I.G. over the next few months.

Whether the sequel to Bad Boy, the record label, will prove to be a bigger blockbuster than its first incarnation remains to be seen. But Combs is ready for the challenge.

"There's nobody hungrier than me," he said. *AP*

COMBS. Called in all favors to secure an all-star lineup for his "Bad Boys II" soundtrack album.

Controversial Mexican film exposes some priests' moral fallibility

By Noelani Torre

WE'D heard a great deal about "El Crimen del Padre Amaro"—enough to deduce that it was never going to be shown in the Philippines. But then again, one should never say never in this country, so a few days ago we found ourselves watching a screening of the controversial Mexican film at our friendly neighborhood university film center.

Sensitive subject

"El Crimen," Oscar nomination notwithstanding, is not the kind of film that will enjoy widespread release. First, because it is in Spanish with English subtitles, and most people are generally leery of films that require "reading." The second and more important reason is because it deals with the sensitive subject of vice and corruption within the Catholic Church.

This is a particularly hot issue these days—what with all the accusations of immorality being thrown at the clerygy—and in a predominantly Catholic country like ours, a film like "El Crimen" would probably spark more than a few arguments.

Though it has been condemned by the church in Mexico, the negative publicity concerning "El Crimen" has only served to boost its popularity, and it is now that country's highest-grossing film to date.

Explicit portrayal

Because of its explicit portrayal of the occasional moral fallibility of priests, it would be easy to dismiss "El Crimen" as merely another potshot taken at an increasingly beleaguered Catholic Church. That would be missing the point, however, says director Carlos Carrera, who states that he did not set out to make a movie "that denounces [the church]" or is "political."

Instead, he wanted to create a more realistic portrait of priests "who are always trying to hide their human side." The film, he said in a press conference, "attempts to see their grays and their shadows, to see their real nature behind the halo of power bestowed on them by the priesthood."

BERNAL. Plays the ambitious and morally weak Padre Amaro.

The movie is based on an 1875 novel of the same title by Portuguese writer Jose Maria Eça de Queiroz. Modernized by Carrera and screenwriter Vicente Leñero, it is set in the small town of Los Reyes, Mexico, the title character's future diocese.

Bishop's favorite

Twenty-four-year-old Father Amaro is a recently ordained priest who has been sent to the town for final polishing, so to speak, under the older eye of Father Benito. The bishop's favorite, Amaro is set to continue his studies in Rome after his Los Reyes stint, but certain things about his new parish gives him pause.

Upon arriving, he meets the lovely and devout 16-year-old Amelia, who confuses her devotion with their growing mutual attraction. Amelia's mother, Sanjuanera, is the longtime inamorata of Father Benito, a fact which Amaro soon discovers.

He also finds out in no time that the Church in Los Reyes is steeped in corruption. The new clinic that Father Benito has put up is in truth funded by the region's most notorious drug lord. In exchange for this financial help, Father Benito provides a "laundry" service for the drug lord's dirty money. Another priest, Father Natalio, is suspected of being involved with guerillas hiding in the hills.

Journalist

Amelia's ex-boyfriend, now a journalist, writes a scathing front-page exposé of the Los Reyes *padres'* wrongdoings, which shakes up the town, if not the whole region. The bishop sends for his protégé, and we soon see Father Amaro strong-arming the newspaper to print a retraction, using the church's political power as a threat.

In the meantime, Amaro is gradually succumbing to the attraction he feels for Amelia, and the two begin an intense sexual relationship. Things come to a head when Amelia tells him she is pregnant, and as he struggles to come to terms with this, we soon find out what the young *padre* is made of.

It sounds like the plot of your typical Mexican telenovela, and it would have been easy to paint the usual, stereotypical "good" and "bad" guys, but the portrait that Carrera gives us is that of real human beings—complex, layered, and plagued with humanity's inherent weaknesses.

Sympathy

Despite their faults, we retain a measure of sympathy for most of the characters, even Father Benito. Though not exactly in a sympathetic light, the film nevertheless allows us to see and even understand the complicated matrices of motivation that govern erring priests' actions.

Gael Garcia Bernal, of "Y Tu Mama Tambien" and "Amores Perros" fame, gives a strong performance as the ambitious and ultimately weak Padre Amaro. At the beginning of the film, he is a fresh-faced idealist, and it is engrossing to watch him compromising his ideals as he slowly becomes corrupted—*allows* himself to be corrupted—by the system he finds himself in.

Effective performance

Ana Claudia Talancon looks a little too old and worldly for the role of the naive Amelia, but she still manages in the end to convey a genuine air of innocence, while Sancho Gracia, as Father Benito, gives an effective performance all throughout.

Though the film is blessed with a distinguished cast, it is also plagued by a pervading atmosphere of heavy melodrama which gives it more of an 1875 air than a contemporary one. Such events as Amelia's getting pregnant and having to go to a back-alley abortionist who, of course, manages to botch it up, only serve to emphasize that out-of-date feel.

Nevertheless the film remains credible because, as Carrera himself points out, "All of this behavior seen in the film has happened in reality. None of this is a lie or a part of our imagination."

So, what is the crime of Father Amaro? It is not so much his giving in to his lust, as it is his ultimate surrender to his ambitions, forgoing all else, including the dictates of his own conscience.

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Movie musicals are forever

By Nestor U. Torre

RUSS Tamblyn performs Jerome Robbins' trailblazing choreography in "West Side Story."

NOW that musical films have been staging a comeback with new movies like "Moulin Rouge" and "Chicago," younger film buffs are becoming curious about the classic musicals of the '50s, '60s and '70s that they haven't seen.

They've asked us for a list of the best musical movies of those decades that they can savor for the first time on VCD or videotape. We're happy to oblige, and bid them welcome to the wonderful world of the film musical:

Standout performers

One of the best musical movies we've viewed is "Singin' in the Rain." This film, starring standout performers like Gene Kelly, Debbie Reynolds and Donald O'Connor, is memorable because it's exceedingly entertaining and creative.

It sets its action during the transition in Hollywood between silent films and talking pictures. Its main plot involves a silent film star who has a squeaky voice, so her career threatens to self-destruct with the advent of the talkies.

To keep her from becoming a laughing stock, it is decided that her film performances use the speaking and singing voice of another woman, a talented but unknown performer (Reynolds). Viewers end up rooting for this unsung talent, so when she does become a star in her own right, the audience is ecstatic.

This film also features innovative dance numbers, and spirited, larger-than-life performances—two of the hallmarks of great musical films.

Sailors

Another musical classic is "On the Town," a breezy, fun-filled movie about sailors on shore leave, who meet and fall in love with some gorgeous women in only 24 hours.

Its talented cast includes great singer-dancers like Frank Sinatra and Gene Kelly. Its musical numbers were deemed revolutionary when the movie was first shown, because they did away with excessively fussy production elements, and opt-

MOVIE/ D3

break time

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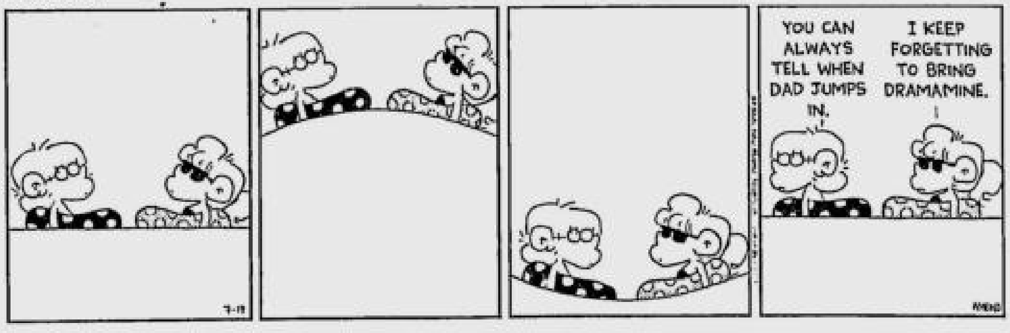
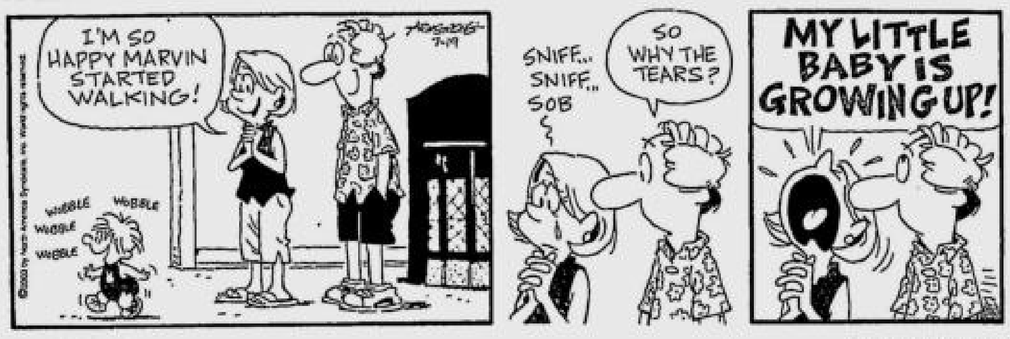
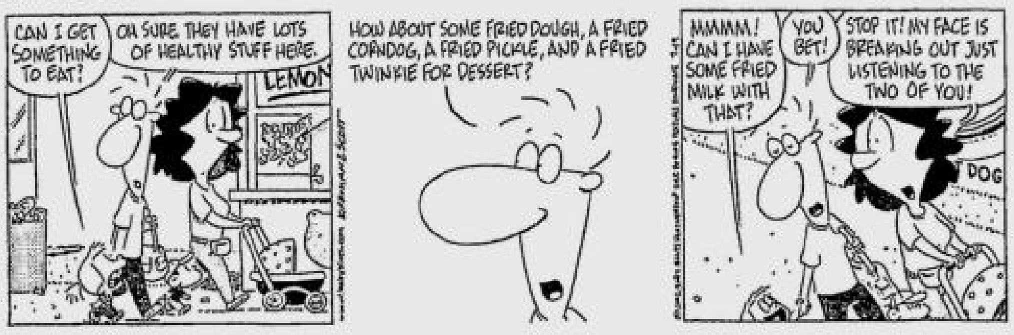

YOU CAN ALWAYS TELL WHEN DAD JUMPS IN.
I KEEP FORGETTING TO BRING DRAMAMINE.
7-19

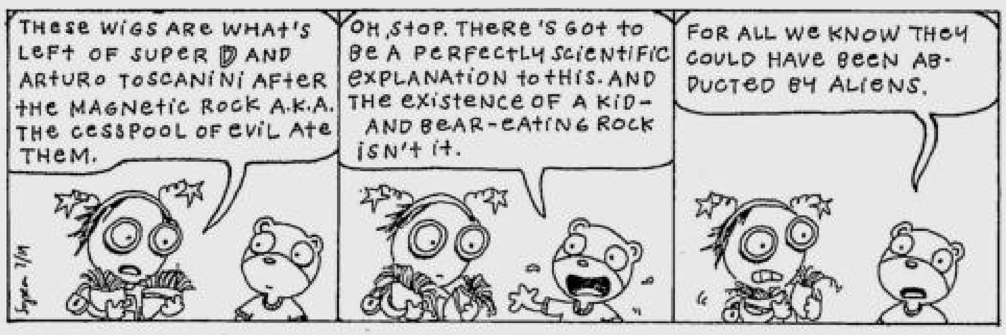
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I'M SO HAPPY MARVIN STARTED WALKING!
WOBBLE WOBBLE WOBBLE WOBBLE
SNIFF.. SNIFF.. SOB
SO WHY THE TEARS?
MY LITTLE BABY IS GROWING UP!

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


CAN I GET SOMETHING TO EAT?
OH SURE. THEY HAVE LOTS OF HEALTHY STUFF HERE.
LEMON
HOW ABOUT SOME FRIED DOUGH, A FRIED CORNDOG, A FRIED PICKLE, AND A FRIED TWINKIE FOR DESSERT?
MMMM! CAN I HAVE SOME FRIED MILK WITH THAT?
YOU BET!
STOP IT! MY FACE IS BREAKING OUT JUST LISTENING TO THE TWO OF YOU!
DOG

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


These wigs are what's left of Super D and Arturo Toscanini after the magnetic rock a.k.a. the cesspool of evil ate them.
Oh, stop. There's got to be a perfectly scientific explanation to this. And the existence of a kid- and bear-eating rock isn't it.
For all we know they could have been abducted by aliens.
7/19

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You move with a natural grace and style. You are very physical in your relationship with the world. Your emotions make you react swiftly to events around you. You have a strong desire to improve yourself, because you want to be a better person. Work hard this year for results that appear next year. **Birthdate of:** Campbell Scott, actor; Charles Mayo, surgeon/co-founder Mayo Clinic; Clea Lewis, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a poor day for important discussions about personal matters with a friend. Even if you think you are speaking clearly and being understood, the odds are that exactly the opposite is happening.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Confused discussions with others are likely today. This is a very poor day to make solid decisions about important matters.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Do not agree to important negotiations today. Avoid making permanent commitments or decisions based on what you learn right now. Things are not as they appear.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Resist the temptation to spend money on luxurious items today. Pie-in-the-sky thinking makes you think you can do so. Later, you will regret it.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You are experiencing a heightened sensitivity to everything around you. Because you cannot filter out what you normally would, everything is a bit confusing. This will be gone by tomorrow.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is a poor day for work that requires disciplined thinking or concentration. You have a tendency to daydream and let your mind wander—just for today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a strange day, because even if you think you understand others, you could be wrong. This is the classic time for one to be swindled by another.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Misunderstandings might arise at work because you do not clearly understand instructions. Don't be afraid to ask others to clarify what they say. You might want to repeat back to them what you heard.

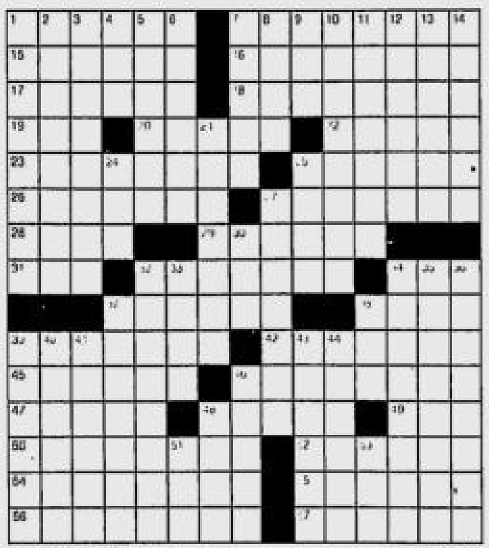
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You feel a deep, spiritual awareness of life today. This certainly might be the case; then again, it could be an illusion or false belief.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Do not put your faith in financial arrangements today. Even if others can be trusted, too much confusion can take place with respect to discussions and mutual expectations.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You might feel anxious, confused and slightly stressed today. In fact, this is because you're not sure what others expect of you. Relax, because tomorrow everything will be fine.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Double-check everything at work today. Errors are rampant. Make sure you are clear and honest about everything and that others treat you in the same way.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Matthew Higgins
Concord, NH
7/19/03

ACROSS
1 Freewheels
7 Whitened
15 Conductor Toscanini
16 Crop-duster's craft
17 Allotted portion
18 Snakes in the grass
19 Goddess of criminal folly
20 Meat pastes
22 Diameter halves
23 Pampered
25 Partner of shakers?
26 Skilled craftsman
27 Ripple
28 Legal claim
29 Colorful perch
31 Turf
32 Alternatives to bridge
34 Winter hrs. in Boston
37 Joyce of "Three's Company"
38 Not taken in by
39 Contract and wrinkle
42 EST word
45 Takes off
46 Cone bearer
47 Absolute
48 __ boom
49 Kilmer of "Batman Forever"
50 Composed of poetic rhythm
52 Puccini opera, "__ Butterfly"
54 Compelling influence
55 Combines
56 Loser with a bad attitude
57 Handles the helm

DOWN
1 Wildcats with tufted ears
2 Dramatic musical composition
3 Certified formally
4 __ generis
5 Words used figuratively
6 Musical composition
7 Founded
8 Tall tales
9 Go astray
10 Sanctions
11 Beaver's family name
12 "Messiah" composer
13 Complete
14 Stop
21 Twining growth
24 Moral transgression
25 Check attachment?
27 Unlisted candidate
30 Linkletter or Buchwald
32 Hectic
33 Females of the flock
34 Sap of energy
35 Long, narrow pennant
36 Without subtlety
37 Sundry
38 Ex-Giant Mel
39 Losing streaks
40 Prefix meaning different
41 Working cat
43 Hostile feeling
44 Trigonometric function
46 Propelled a raft
48 Gilbert or Teasdale
51 Signal
53 Bite the dust

Friday's Puzzle Solved

P	A	T	E	■	E	D	G	Y	■	R	A	M	B	O
O	P	E	C	■	M	A	R	E	■	U	N	R	I	P
E	A	R	L	■	B	R	A	N	■	P	I	L	O	T
M	R	R	I	P	L	E	Y	■	S	E	M	I	■	■
S	T	A	P	L	E	S	■	O	C	E	A	N	I	C
■	■	■	S	A	M	■	J	A	R	■	L	C	D	R
N	A	M	E	S	■	S	O	S	A	■	S	O	L	O
O	R	R	■	M	R	C	H	I	P	S	■	L	E	N
U	G	H	S	■	E	O	N	S	■	T	A	N	D	Y
S	O	O	T	■	I	N	S	■	H	E	N	■	■	■
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■	■	L	I	O	N	■	M	R	J	O	R	D	A	N
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O	W	N	E	D	■	E	P	I	C	■	E	R	I	N
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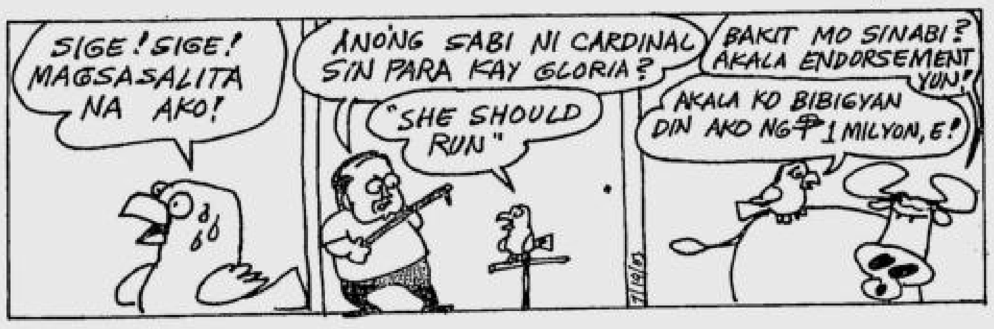
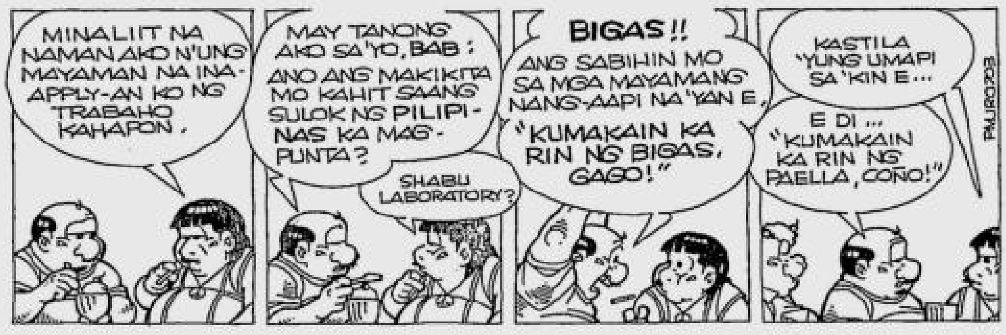
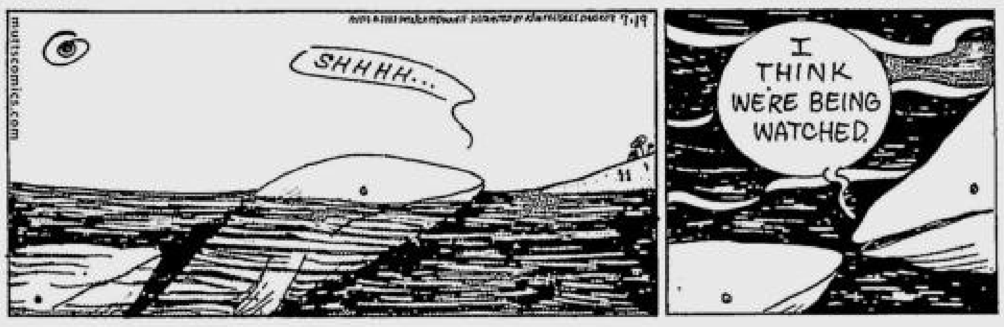
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


SIGE! SIGE! MAGSASALITA NA AKO!
ANONG SABI NI CARDINAL SIN PARA KAY GLORIA?
"SHE SHOULD RUN"
7/19/03
BAKIT MO SINABI? AKALA ENDORSEMENT YUN!
AKALA KO BIBIGYAN DIN AKO NG ₱1 MILYON, E!

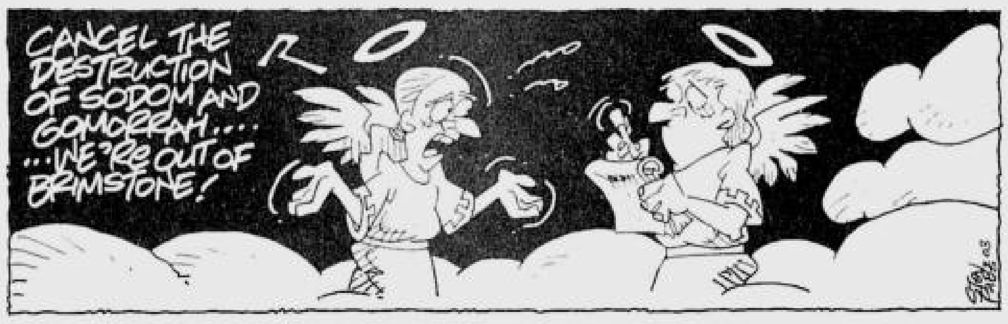
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR™


MINALIIT NA NAMAN AKO N'UNG MAYAMAN NA INA-APPLY-AN KO NG TRABAHO KAHAPON.
MAY TANONG AKO SA'YO, BAB: ANO ANG MAKIKITA MO KAHIT SAANG SULOK NG PILIPINAS KA MAG-PUNTA?
SHABU LABORATORY?
BIGAS!! ANG SABIHIN MO SA MGA MAYAMANG NANG-AAPI NA 'YAN E, "KUMAKAIN KA RIN NG BIGAS, GAGO!"
KASTILA 'YUNG UMAPI SA'KIN E...
E DI... "KUMAKAIN KA RIN NG PAELLA, COÑO!"
PMJR0703

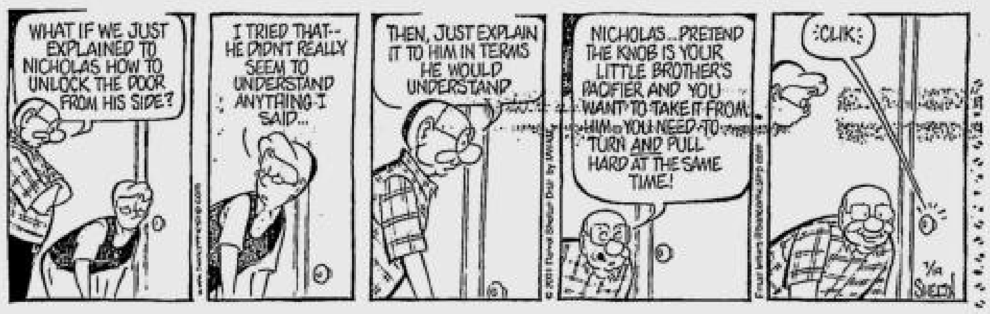
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


mutts comics.com
7.19
SHHHH...
I THINK WE'RE BEING WATCHED

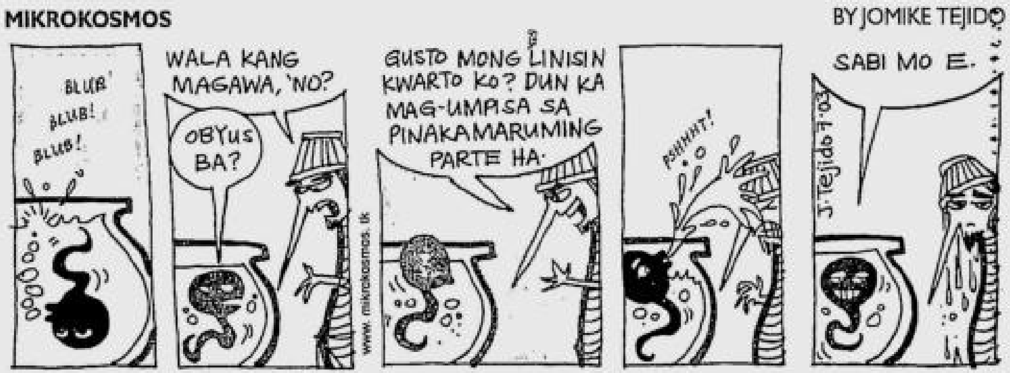
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


CANCEL THE DESTRUCTION OF SODOM AND GOMORRAH.... ...WE'RE OUT OF BRIMSTONE!

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


WHAT IF WE JUST EXPLAINED TO NICHOLAS HOW TO UNLOCK THE DOOR FROM HIS SIDE?
I TRIED THAT-- HE DIDN'T REALLY SEEM TO UNDERSTAND ANYTHING I SAID...
THEN, JUST EXPLAIN IT TO HIM IN TERMS HE WOULD UNDERSTAND.
NICHOLAS...PRETEND THE KNOB IS YOUR LITTLE BROTHER'S PACIFIER AND YOU WANT TO TAKE IT FROM HIM. YOU NEED TO TURN AND PULL HARD AT THE SAME TIME!
:CLIK:
7/4 SHELTON

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO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GUSTO MONG LINISIN KWARTO KO? DUN KA MAG-UMPISA SA PINAKAMARUMING PARTE HA.
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SABI MO E.
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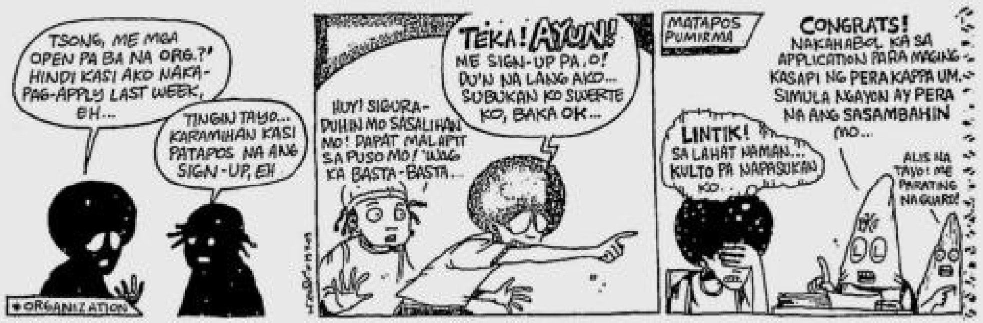
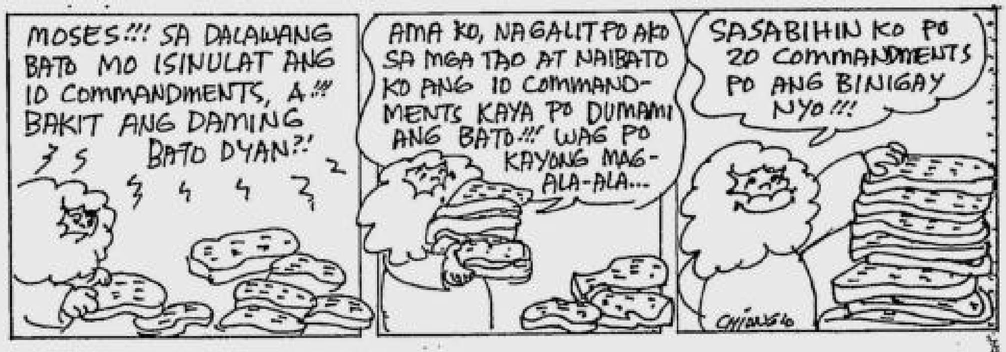
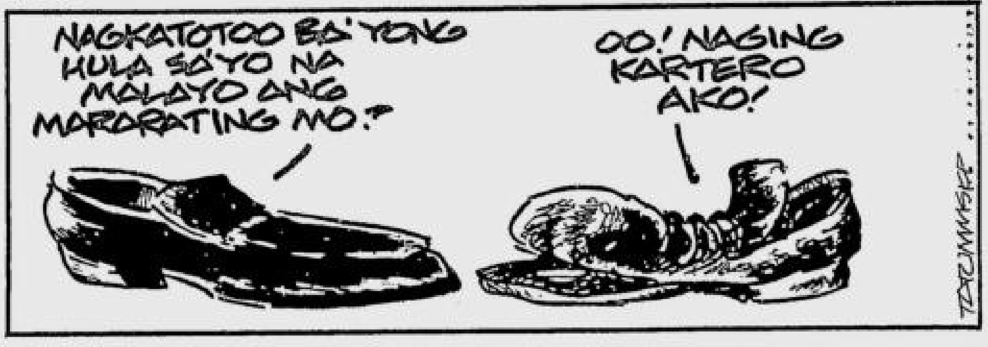
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


TSONG, ME MGA OPEN PA BA NA ORG.?* HINDI KASI AKO NAKA-PAG-APPLY LAST WEEK, EH...
TINGIN TAYO... KARAMIHAN KASI PATAPOS NA ANG SIGN-UP, EH
*ORGANIZATION
HUY! SIGURADUHIN MO SASALIHAN MO! DAPAT MALAPIT SA PUSO MO! 'WAG KA BASTA-BASTA...
TEKA! AYUN! ME SIGN-UP PA, O! DU'N NA LANG AKO... SUBUKAN KO SWERTE KO, BAKA OK...
MATAPOS PUMIRMA
CONGRATS! NAKAHABOL KA SA APPLICATION PARA MAGING KASAPI NG PERA KAPPA UM. SIMULA NGAYON AY PERA NA ANG SASAMBAHIN MO...
LINTIK! SA LAHAT NAMAN... KULTO PA NAPASUKAN KO...
ALIS NA TAYO! ME PARATING NA GUARD!

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MOSES!!! SA DALAWANG BATO MO ISINULAT ANG 10 COMMANDMENTS, A!!! BAKIT ANG DAMING BATO DYAN?!
AMA KO, NAGALIT PO AKO SA MGA TAO AT NAIBATO KO ANG 10 COMMANDMENTS KAYA PO DUMAMI ANG BATO!!! WAG PO KAYONG MAG-ALA-ALA...
SASABIHIN KO PO 20 COMMANDMENTS PO ANG BINIGAY NYO!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


NAGKATOTOO BA 'YONG HULA SA'YO NA MALAYO ANG MARARATING MO?
OO! NAGING KARTERO AKO!
TARUMASKE

Gollum, Legolas, Elle Woods and Batman to sing and dance on the legitimate stage

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

OUR Q and A for this week:

From *Nancy Trinidad of Lipa*, **"Is it true that my favorite movie, "The Lord of the Rings," will be adapted for the Broadway stage soon?"**

Yes, Froddo Baggins will soon do pirouettes and try to reach the high C's with Legolas and his elf and hobbit pals. Not on Broadway, however, but on London's West End.

50th anniversary

The musical, said to cost around $8 M, will premiere in London in 2005, timed to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the completion of the trilogy.

GOLLUM. Will soon make his musical debut in London.

Some fans of the franchise harbor doubts about the outcome of the stage version, though. But this concern is understandable. After all, Hollywood mogul Saul Zaentz, who's co-producing the "LOTR" musical, was also involved with the disastrous 1978 cartoon version (available in the Philippines) of Tolkien's opus. The hype and magnitude of blockbuster movies stand in the way of recreating material in a different medium. Just how do you top them?

But people learn from past mistakes. And, we are pleased to share that we have seen some of the productions of director Matthew Warchus on the West End, particularly Yasmina Reza's "Life Times Three" and "Art," and we were impressed-not only with the sprawling beauty of his work's production design, but also with their substantial content.

Quality

The "Titanic" musical, which followed the box office and Oscar successes of the film version, was previewed unimpressively on Broadway. Critics and doomsayers predicted imminent failure for the stage version, but when it premiered, audiences were moved by the quality of the production. And "Titanic The Musical" did not sink along with the "glacier" it hit.

But the current trend of adapting movies to the legitimate stage doesn't end in JRR Tolkien's Middle Earth. Disney led the way by bringing movie magic to the stage: "Beauty and the Beast" and "The Lion King." "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" and Mel Brooks' "The Producers" became even more acclaimed on stage than onscreen.

However, some movies-to-stage productions haven't been so lucky: "Footloose;" "Urban Cowboy;" and "Big" bombed. Several more of the celluloid's popular characters will soon take their bow onstage.

MGM is considering bringing the ditzy-but-brilliant Elle Woods ("Legally Blonde") to the legitimate stage. Let's see if the lukewarm critical reception of the big screen sequel will change that.

Stage bug

Even Woody Allen has caught the stage bug. He is currently working with Marvin Hamlisch on a possible Broadway version of "Bullets Over Broadway." But let's hope he leaves the singing and acting to other actors!

New Line, still ecstatic over the Tony-winning success of John Waters' "Hairspray," wants stage versions of "The Wedding Singer" and "Pleasantville."

Warner Brothers is wooing Tim Burton to bring "Batman's" gothic tale to the Great White Way. Baz Luhrmann will adapt his big screen triumphs, "Strictly Ballroom" and "Moulin Rouge," for the stage. Many actresses will surely be queueing up to play Satine if Nicole Kidman doesn't do the role herself.

And it gets even better for theater buffs! Steven Spielberg is currently collaborating with "Hairspray" composers Scott Wittman and Marc Shaiman to turn "Catch Me If You Can" into a musical.

Movie musicals are forever

From page D1

ed for a clean, spare and direct staging style.

Exuberant production

More quickly now, here are other musical films that you should treat yourselves to, and why:

"Oklahoma," for its exuberant production numbers that helped make the musical film one of Hollywood's most popular formats for decades, before it was eclipsed by more reality-based movies in the '80s and '90s.

"Showboat," for its dramatic musical numbers, and its courageous stand against racism.

"Carousel," a folksy film about "ordinary" people's lives, but touched with the magic wand of the musical format.

Modern ballet

"An American in Paris," for its beautifully artistic modern ballet numbers.

"West Side Story," for its great dance numbers by Jerome Robbins, and on-target adaptation of the timeless tale of Romeo and Juliet.

"Seven Brides for Seven Brothers," for its prodigiously acrobatic dancing.

"Gentlemen Prefer Blondes," for its yummy musical numbers featuring the luscious Marilyn Monroe.

"Cabaret," for its edgy songs, dances and production style, and Joel Gray's compelling performance.

What are *your* favorite musical films?

"CAROUSEL." A folksy film about ordinary people's lives.

Exciting car chase sets tone for 'T3'

By Noelani Torre

THE SOON-TO-BE-CLASSIC car chase early on in "Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines" sets the tone for the rest of this no punches-spared-action film.

In this scene, John Connor (played by "In the Bedroom's" Nick Stahl) and future wife, Kate Brewster (Claire Danes), are in a battered van, with the coldly beautiful Terminatrix—or T-X—in hot pursuit.

Obsolete

With a hundred-ton crane, she chases our heroes down, while smashing everything in her path. And this includes the self-admittedly obsolete T-101 (Arnold Schwarzenegger, of course) who dangles from the crane and—this is the best part—gets run through an entire glass building. "Matrix Reloaded," eat your heart out!

Eagerly awaited by fans and critics alike, this sequel to two of the action genre's much-loved classics does not, contrary to the rules of sequel-hood, lag behind its illustrious predecessors.

Fatal combination

We must say, however, that the odds against its success are pretty high—big shoes to fill, an ageing action star, a relatively unknown director, and the fatal combination of the words "sequel" and "part three."

Critics

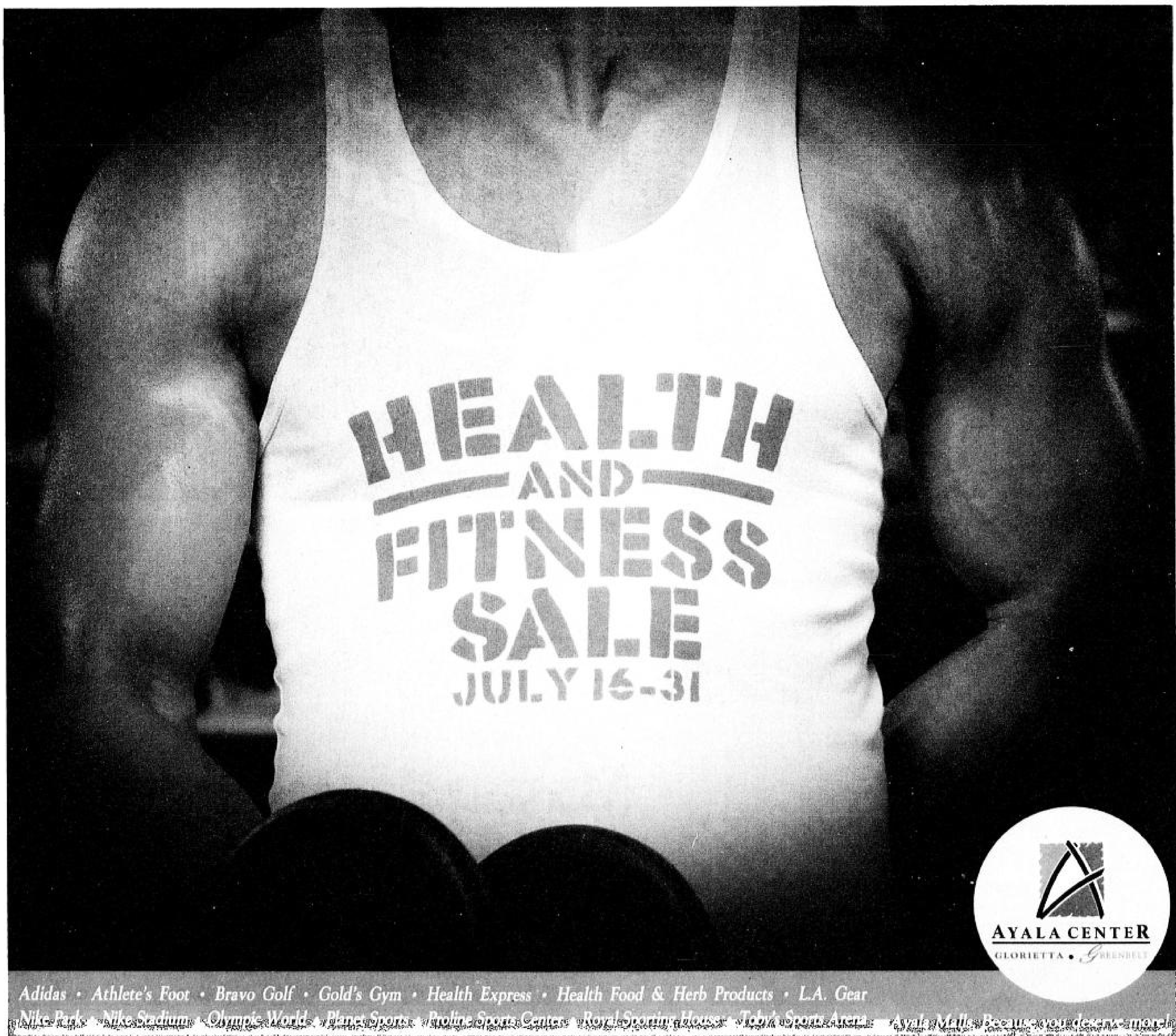
When marquee-favored James Cameron declined to take the helm of this third human-vs.-machine installment, critics predicted a slow, but sure death. And when Linda Hamilton likewise threw in her action-babe towel, things looked pretty dark indeed for "T3."

Director Jonathan Mostow, however, is competent, as his earlier tension-filled "U-571" would attest. He brings this flair for tension and the creation of a dark, brooding atmosphere to "T3," which helps save the film from B-movie-dom.

Claire Danes, though not a fully satisfying replacement for Hamilton, comports herself well throughout the film, despite some whining and silly lines—e.g. "Just die, you bitch" and "There's my father's plane! I trained on it!" Um. Not exactly an action babe like our Kate whose character, by the way, died of natural causes (leukemia).

Of course, it wouldn't be a Terminator flick without the undeniably big-impact screen presence of Arnold Schwarzenegger who, despite or because of a face wiped free of emotion, manages to make himself felt. He may have crossed the middle-age line already, but his physique is still impressive, and he doesn't look a day over 40—okay, 45. (To be concluded)

SCHWARZENEGGER. Undeniably big-impact screen presence.



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Dondie Prats instills good values in his celebrity kids

By Joel V. Nigos

HOW far should a father's involvement with his children go?

For Dondie Prats, father of young stars John and Camille Prats, it's to the point of giving up his own profession to support their careers. It is also being more protective of them, since they are public figures; giving them guidance, and making sure that they have something to fall back on in the future, after stardom fades.

THE PRATS family: (from left) Rafael, Camille, Dondie, Naomi, Carlo, Alma and John.

Own business

Married to wife Alma for 20 years now, Dondie was having the time of his life with his own business in Hong Kong in the early '90s when Camille was first thrust into show biz.

Initially, it was Alma who took charge of John and Camille's careers. "But there came a time when she could no longer handle the demands of our children's careers, so I sold my business and took over," he recalls.

Events management

"I put up Sultana Entertainment Enterprises. It handles events management, and co-manages my two kids' careers with ABS-CBN's Talent Center."

He also established a construction and real estate firm in 1998, and Ad Gateway Inc. last year.

"I realized that we were paying too much on rentals for our sets. So I put up a company which would provide the sets. At Ad Gateway, we serve the advertising needs of our clients at Sultana, so they have a one-stop shop with us. We handle TV commercials, placements and billboards," says Dondie.

As father of two young stars, Dondie is keen that good values are instilled in his kids, considering the business they're in.

Success

He always tries to keep John and Camille's feet on the ground, despite the success they've been enjoying as young stars.

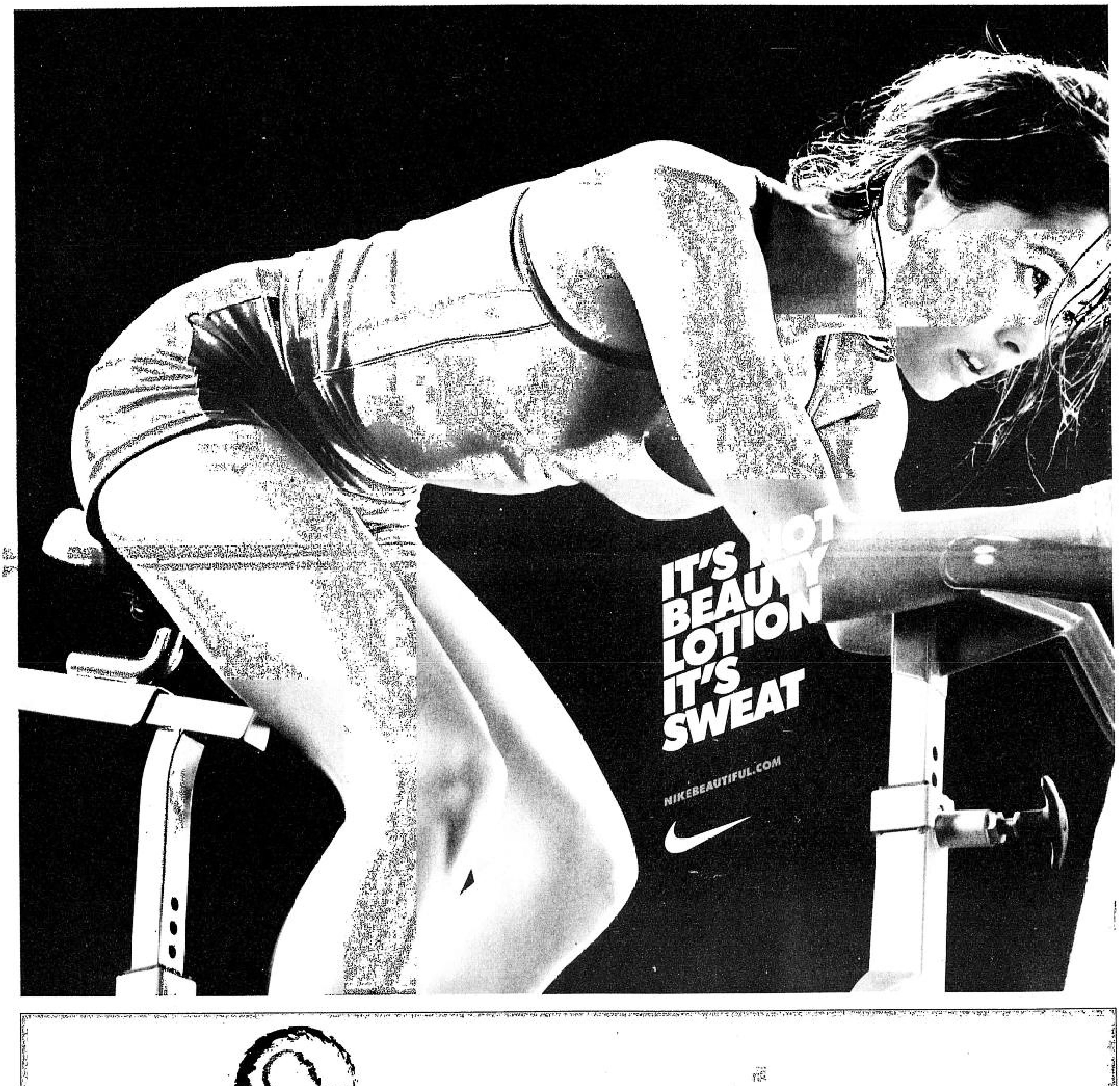
"I tell them that it's a privilege being celebrities, so they have to thank God for that, and they should appreciate all the people who have helped them.

"*At dapat maging* humble *sila*. I taught them to respect everybody, down to the utility men, because everybody is part of the production. They have to be team players.

"I treat them as *barkada—pero dapat may respeto*. I tell them to judge by their wisdom, not by their emotions.

Dondie thinks it's best that spending is regulated.

"They have monthly budgets, even for their cell phone expenses. I have invested some of their earnings in real estate. I believe that it's a primary responsibility for me as a parent that they will be stable when the time comes that they are no longer in show biz."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Depp says ahoy to a 'Pirates' life

By David Germain

LOS ANGELES—Admit it. You always knew Johnny Depp was a pirate at heart.

DEPP. Has always rowed to a different beat.

Mutineer

A mutineer on the good ship Hollywood, Depp always has rowed to a different beat, bucking magazine-cover stardom in favor of challenging roles and full-blooded, fringe-dwelling characters.

Off screen, Depp had a party-animal reputation early in his career and has maintained a buccaneer's defiance towards the type of parts big studio movies generally had to offer.

Just the sort to relish playing a hooligan of the high seas in an 18th century pirate flick. But, one based on a Disney theme-park attraction and produced by blockbuster baron Jerry Bruckheimer?

"Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl" has more straight-ahead Hollywood sheen than anything Depp has tried before, an action-packed summer adventure for parents and kids alike. And for all of Depp's standoffishness about big Hollywood, the filmmakers had him in mind from the start.

"Weird," Depp said in an interview with the Associated Press. "I was completely shocked. It came out of nowhere. A Disney-Bruckheimer thing, big budget. You wouldn't think, or at least I didn't think, that they would be thinking of me first."

Enemy camp

"Pirates," directed by Gore Verbinski, felt "kind of like infiltrating the enemy camp," said Depp, though he added that he never consciously avoided big Hollywood productions.

"It was more like, I think, I've made it pretty clear in terms of the work that I've done what it is I do and what I like to do with characters," said Depp, who turned 40 in June.

Seemingly just the latest TV pretty boy when he emerged in the late 1980s on the youth-culture cop series "21 Jump Street," Depp soon rebelled against what he called assembly-line entertainment. He had stumbled into acting a few years earlier with a small part in "A Nightmare on Elm Street," which came up as he and his rock band were struggling to make ends meet in Los Angeles.

Near the end of his "Jump Street" gig, Depp signed on for cult-flick maestro John Waters' "Cry-Baby," a half-serious, half-satiric revival of '50s rock 'n' roll rebel melodramas.

Depp then jumped into a string of films playing idiosyncratic outsiders, including "Edward Scissorhands," "Benny & Joon," "What's Eating Gilbert Grape," "Ed Wood," "Don Juan DeMarco" and "Dead Man."

"Donnie Brasco," in 1997, caught Depp a wave of praise that most actors would have tried to parlay into bigger paychecks in even-bigger movies.

Gonzo journalist

Instead, Depp plowed on with his resume of weirdoes, playing gonzo journalist Hunter S. Thompson in "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas," crime solver Ichabod Crane pursuing a headless horseman in "Sleepy Hollow," a gypsy guitarist in "Chocolat," a '70s cocaine kingpin in "Blow," an opium-addicted detective hunting Jack the Ripper in "From Hell," and two roles in "Before Night Falls," a South American cop and a transvestite.

Coming this fall is a role as a corrupt CIA agent—"a real slimeball," Depp calls him—in "Once Upon a Time in Mexico," which stars Antonio Banderas and completes the gunslinger trilogy writer-director Robert Rodriguez began with "El Mariachi" and "Desperado."

"The best-written part was that character. It was amazing to see how he took it to another 10 levels," Rodriguez said of Depp. "If he'd just come in and played it right off the page, it would have been a great part, but he really gave it another life."

Depp "is one of the few actors of his generation who has made a concerted effort not to be a movie star. He's an artist," said Dustin Hoffman, co-star of next year's "Neverland," a film biography in which Depp plays "Peter Pan" author J.M. Barrie.

Even on a big commercial picture such as "Pirates of the Caribbean," Depp managed to put his eccentric stamp on his character, Jack Sparrow, a pirate captain seeking to regain his ship, which has been commandeered by a crew of blackhearts doomed by a supernatural curse.

Giant corporations

"I know when you're dealing with giant corporations such as Disney or big companies like that, that they need to have their hands in almost every angle of the piece," Depp said. "For me, it was sort of like, `Here's what I have to do to be my character, to bring this guy to life. I hope you're OK with it, and if you're not, it would be best if you replaced me, probably.'

DEPP/E4

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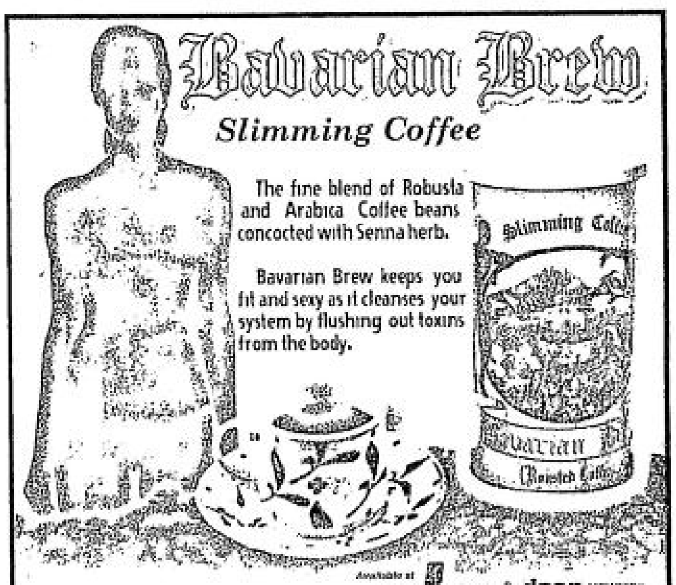

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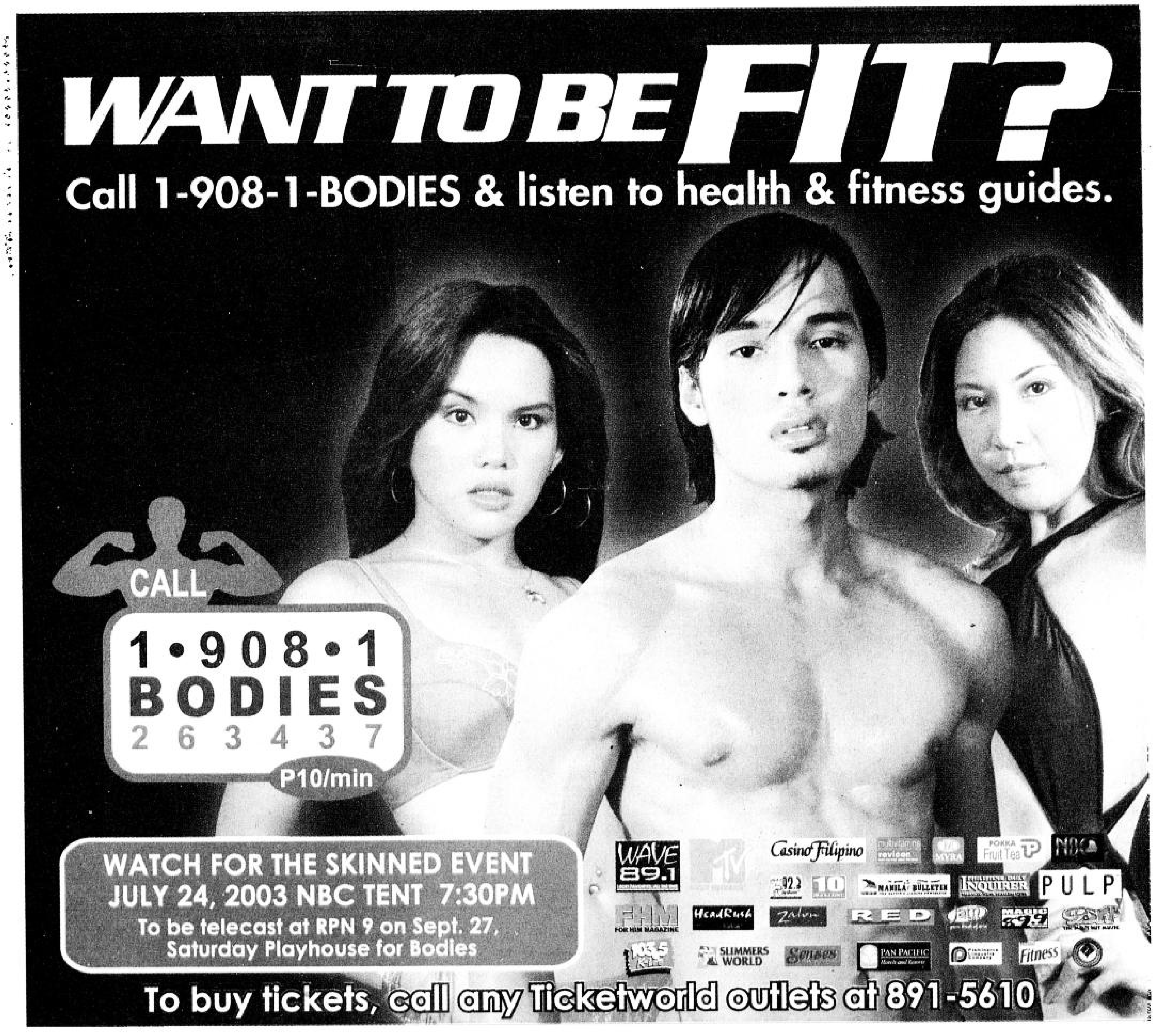

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'Miranda' is a delightfully quirky trifle

By Rito P. Asilo

RICCI. Plays the movie's amoral, enigmatic heroine.

MARC Munden's "Miranda" (UK, 2002) is a demi-noir movie that gets its bounce from the delightfully whimsical performances of its cast, headed by the quirky Christina Ricci (in the title role), the playful Kyle MacLachlan and British actor John Simm.

But what starts out as a riveting premise for a romantic comedy gets muddled on its last third, when the script ventures into another genre—the suspense thriller route.

Beautiful stranger

The story is neither fresh nor unique: Frank (Simm) is an offbeat English librarian whose humdrum life is turned upside-down when a mysterious, elusive American woman (Ricci) walks into his library and gives him a reason to show up for work everyday. From a distance, he falls in love with the beautiful stranger.

One day, expecting to get rejected, Frank throws caution to the winds and asks her out for a drink. To his shock, Miranda accepts—with the cautionary proviso that all they will share is "just a drink, no fu--!"

But Frank gets more than the drink she requires. As he falls deeper for Miranda, he begins to wonder just how long he can hold on to this enigmatic woman, whose past he knows nothing about.

Con artist

He wakes up one morning without her by his side, so he sets out to find her, and to save her, if needed. This is where the plot thickens (and gets murky) as Miranda, in reality a con artist wedged in a complex set of schemes between her mentor Christian (John Hurt) and a sleazy industrialist, Nailor (MacLachlan) with a penchant for sadomasochism, is pressured for cash by the former, and for sex by the latter. And then, the movie draws to a predictable conclusion.

The film rides on Ricci's sexuality and Simm's diffidence, which works in his favor as his seeming lack of confidence allows his character enough room to grow as the story progresses.

While it is true that the leads sizzle with obvious chemistry, it is Kyle MacLachlan's delightfully dark and comic turn that almost runs away with the movie.

Familiar territory

Admittedly, Ricci and MacLachlan are treading on familiar territory here. Ricci has played amoral, enigmatic women to the hilt in movies like "The Opposite of Sex" or "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas" (or even on "Ally McBeal), while MacLachlan has mastered the art of David Lynch's weird aesthetic world in projects like "Blue Velvet" and "Twin Peaks."

The stranger-evoking-interest-among-locals theme is a recurring subject in recent UK-produced dramas we've seen in past months—particularly "The Birthday Girl" (starring the versatile Nicole Kidman) and "The Last Castle" (with Paddy Considine), shown at the recent UK filmfest.

Also, this 92-minute film boasts of a likable soundtrack that includes a cover of "This Guy's in Love with You," among others.

Stunning cinematography

Further enhancing its polished look is the stunning cinematography that allows the moviegoer to experience London's chilly weather. When you see Ricci shivering at the center of Trafalgar Square, you feel the cold air pierce through your bones, as well.

The plot may not amount to much, but the movie's actors turn in winsome, waggish performances. Despite its limitations, "Miranda," is still a quirky delightful trifle, more worthy of our patronage than those gratuitous bold flicks currently showing in local theaters. Go catch it at Greenbelt 1.

Hottest ticket in town

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

MA-YI Theater Company's "The Romance of Magno Rubio" opened its limited run at the CCP's Tanghalang Jose Batute last Wednesday night, as part of the ongoing Sangandaan Festival on US-Philippine relations. The premiere performance, which was sponsored by the US Embassy, was such a hit with the audience that the play is now the hottest theater ticket in town.

We hear that three more shows have been added to the play's original schedule of performances (July 20 at 3 p.m., July 25 at 8 p.m., July 26 at 3 and 8 p.m., and July 27 at 3 p.m.), to accommodate more theater buffs. Call the CCP (832-1125) for additional details.

"Magno Rubio" is based on a short story by expatriate Filipino writer Carlos Bulosan, who wrote about Filipino field and factory workers in the States many decades ago. Bulosan knew whereof he wrote because he labored shoulder-to-shoulder with the Pinoy laborers, enduring the rigors, low pay and discrimination that they had to put up with.

As a result, his stories and novels are changed with truth, detail and insight so felt and authentic that they are still moving and vital to this day.

Bulosan's "Magno Rubio" story impressed director Loy Arcenas so much that he asked playwright and poet Lonnie Carter to expand it into a verse play, with Tagalog text by Ralph Peña, Ma-Yi's artistic director.

Carter's script was then workshopped, revised, and further refined by Arcenas, a gifted theater artist whose work, both as production designer and director, has been acclaimed in the United States.

The result of this laborious yet inspired process is the play that is now exciting Manila audiences. The production is so original and creative that it eludes the standard theater captions as to type.

It's both moving and funny, has some songs and movement, makes use of a modern version of the Greek chorus, and even includes a "Matrix"-like slo-mo fight scene.

Despite these innovative touches, however, the production's major successes are in the areas of direction and performance.

GONZALEZ. Plays the protagonist in "The Romance of Magno Rubio."

Its protagonist, Magno is illiterate, so he hires people to write letters of love to a young blonde beauty (or so he fancies her to be), who takes advantage of his obsession with her and fleeces him of his hard-earned money. Magno's eventual discovery of her duplicity is a tragic moment of universal reverberations.

Magno is played by Jojo Gonzalez, who turns in a memorable performance. But his achievement isn't allowed to dwarf the similarly excellent work turned in by Art Acuña, Ramon de Ocampo, Ron Domingo and Antonio del Rosario as the other field hands.

It's the ensemble nature of the cast's thespic achievement that makes the strongest impression on viewers.

With so many fine Fil-Am actors now working in the States, we can expect other significant works to be mounted by US-based Asian theater groups like Ma-Yi in the next few years.

At the moment, however, "The Romance of Magno Rubio" is in town for you to savor—so, what are you waiting for?

'Buddy Ride Treat'

Ongoing until Aug. 21 at Dreamscape (4th level, Robinsons Galleria) is "Buddy Ride Treat," a special promotion that enables a patron to buy one pay-per-ride ticket and enjoy a 50-percent discount on his next purchase.

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HOTTEST/E3

'Commuter marriage' that works

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

SHE is used to it, being in the light. Operating lights, that is, because Dr. Rebecca B. Singson is an attending obstetrician and gynecologist at Makati Medical Center. and Asian Hospital.

Fashionable

She is a pleasant eyeful. Not averse to-wearing make-up, she dons fashionable clothes under her white medical coat. She sheds the stereotyped serious mien of typical doctors.

"Is that a mole between your brows?," you ask, and she answers, "Yes, but I won't have it removed. I have been told it works as my third eye."

Is she a ballroom dancer? "I love to dance but only with partners I am comfortable with. I do not get to dance often because I am not used to dance instructors."

Two children

She comes from a family of six children, and lives in the ancestral house of her parents with an unmarried sister. She has two wonderful children with her Italian husband.

Dr. Singson met her husband during her postgraduate training in Obstetric Ultrasound and Pre-Natal Diagnosis in Italy.Theirs is a "commuter marriage" because he works in Italy while she's based in Manila. Their children, a boy and a girl, are with her. But, they get together as often as they can.

Their children look like Renaissance angels. But it'is charming to hear them speak Filipino so fluently. It makes you appreciate the mother more.

Twins

Giovanni and Giulia are twins, the girl slightly taller. Giulia wants to be a doctor, and Giovanni a pilot. Both kids play the violin and piano. While Giulia dances the ballet and has a beautiful singing voice, Giovanni possesses an Italian cook's taste buds. As the doctor puts it, she does not have much time to be a cook.

Behind the surgical mask, the lady's face is lit with a smile, and under the harsh lights of either the operating room or of life in general, she neither wilts nor flinches.

(Dr. Rebecca B. Singson is a Fellow of the Obstetrics and Gynecologic Society, with clinics at Rm. 381 Makati Medical Center, tel. no. 892-7879, and at Rm. 202-203 Asian Hospital and Medical Center, or call 771-9000- 02)

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SINGSON with son Giovanni and daughter Giulia.

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM JULY 19 - JULY 25

CH	2	4	5	7	9	11	23	29	E!31
	6:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:30 Buttercup 9:00 Arriba, Arriba 10:30 Kontrobersyal 11:30 "F" 12:00 Sports Unlimited	7:00 Yan Ang Pinoy 8:00 The Working President 9:00 To be Announced	7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Mirror, Mirror 8:00 Wow Mali! 9:00 Viva Box Office 11:00 Go For Gold	6:00 Search for a Star 6:30 Imbestigador 7:30 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:30 Kakabakaba 9:30 Blockbuster Cinema 11:20 Flash Report 11:30 Master Showman	6:00 Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo 7:00 British Golf Open	5:00 National Basketball League 7:00 Global Family Series 7:30 Kidscetera 8:00 Amazing Twins 11:00 Iyo Ang Katarungan	6:00 Combat Mission 7:00 Game Plan 7:30 7th Heaven 8:30 Boston Public 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 11:30 Real Deal	7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras Ng Kalolohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	5:30 CBS Evening News 6:00 E! News Weekend 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On
	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Home Along Da Riles 9:30 Sunday Family Cinema 11:30 Dong Puno Tonight 12:00 The Weekend News	4:00 PBA Games 9:00 The Working President 10:00 Standing Room Only	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Ispup atpb. 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 Viva Cine Idols 11:00 Speed	5:30 Partners Mel & Jay 7:00 Ki 8:30 Daddy Di Do Du 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office *Erin Brockovich* 11:20 Flash Report 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Smack Down Wrestling 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 British Golf Open	4:00 PBA Games 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 Global Family Series 11:30 El Shaddai	6:00 Jimmy Neutron 6:30 Futurama 7:00 Digital tour 7:30 Spy TV 8:00 Yes Dear 8:30 Just Shoot Me 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 The West Wing 10:30 Scariest Places on Earth 11:30 News Central	7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night movies	5:30 CBS Evening News 6:00 E! Coming Attractions 6:30 FYE 7:00 E! Original Specials 8:00 Rank 9:00 Revealed w/ Jules Asner 10:00 Movies on E!
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:00 Basta't Kasama Kita 7:30 Game K N B? 8:00 Darating Ang Umaga 8:30 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 9:00 Bida Si Mister, Bida Si Misis 11:00 Headlines 11:30 The Correspondents	6:00 Concert at the Park 7:00 Strangebrew 7:30 In the Raw 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Family Rosary Crusade 11:00 Auto Focus	6:00 F 6:30 Balitang-Balita 7:00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 That 70s Show 9:00 On Air 9:30 Misadventures of Maverick and Ariel 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Mad TV	6:15 Frontpage 7:00 Lavender 7:40 Narito Ang Puso Ko 8:10 Habang Kapiling Ka 8:50 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw Pa Rin 9:30 Da Boy and Da Girl 11:00 Saksi 11:30 I-Witness	6:00 Crayon Shin Chan 6:30 Entertainment Tonight 7:00 Just for Laffs 8:00 Jag 9:00 Harsh Realm 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Sex & the City 11:00 OPTV	6:00 Quantum Info 6:30 NBA Jam 9:30 Fight Time at Elorde 10:30 IBC News Tonite 11:00 Linawin Natin	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Buffy 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Kalolohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 E! News Live 7:00 Behind The Scenes 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 10:00 Best of Late Show 11:00 Wild On
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Guess who didn't come to dinner?

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

DEAR Clara,

Guess who didn't come to dinner? Me, that's who. Yes, Clara. I missed that special sit-down dinner with a 12-course Chinese lauriat to celebrate the birthday of your Ninang Kitchie (Benedicto) last Wednesday night at the Garden Ballroom of Edsa Shangri-La.

Alignment

I promised myself I wouldn't miss that occasion for the world but, I guess, the alignment of the stars wasn't right. Guess where I was that night? In Room 324 at St. Luke's Medical Center, for my second confinement this month.

Well, at least, my doctors now know what's wrong with me. The last time I was at St. Luke's, they couldn't quite pinpoint what made my head ache so much—except to say that I should lessen my three-VCDs-a-day diet of the latest movies.

It's Bell's Palsy, Clara. Just when I thought I had already had every possible ailment, here comes this strange-sounding disease. After my heart, blood and kidneys, it's the turn of my nerves to act up and display an attitude.

What can I say? I'm not Wonder Woman, after all—much less some kind of T3 machine. And all the abuse I have heaped on my poor, defenseless body is finally catching up with me. According to Dr. Joven Cuanang, my neurologist who quite recently also had Bell's Palsy, this malady is caused by stress.

Interviews

Is he kidding? Because Stress is my middle name. I remember, Clara, at the time when I was busiest in my career as a broadcaster, I'd do a dozen interviews any given day, on top of my daily radio and TV hosting, out-of-town filming, interminable high-tension meetings, and regular nights out with friends.

And, even in recent years, when my schedule considerably slackened, I've always managed to devise clever ways to needlessly stress myself. If stress were an art form, I'd be its foremost connoisseur. If it were a sports event, I'd be its gold medalist!

Look where it has led me: I have lost control over some very naughty muscles on my right cheek and my face has lost its symmetry. Even the muscles of my right eye are up to some mischief.

Deformed

Well, it could have been worse, Clara. My entire face could have been deformed and I could be drooling all over the floor. Worse, I could have ended up reinventing language and no one would have been able to understand anything I said.

Thank God, I'm alright, Clara. I just need daily therapy for the next three weeks and, Dr. Cuanang assures me, I'll be as good as new. When that finally comes to pass, remind me to go to the spa for a facial and complete beauty treatment!

Meanwhile, as I write this, I'm here in my hospital room, contemplating on how Al-Ghozi got away—and on the seemingly bizarre and senseless medical therapy formulated for me by my doctors.

Allow me to explain: You see, before Bell's Palsy, my sugar level had already been controlled. Now, I need to take medicines to keep my rebellious nerves in check—but they cause my sugar level to shoot up. So, I need to take another set of medicines to lower it! Go figure that out, Clara. When you've made some sense of it, please tell me.

I've also been thinking why the Lord has allowed this latest episode in my convoluted medical saga to happen. Haven't I had enough? Am I missing something here? Is there some sign I've failed to see?

Reckless life

Well, God must want me to rest my body as well as my mind. For the past weeks, I've been spinning like a top—doing a lot of little things that, when put together, add up to a reckless life. Actually, I have a lot of time in my hands and I most certainly can take on some more load. Like, I've been praying to go back to radio and producing shows and many other things. But with all the idle time I have now, I somehow get to do many unnecessary things. And I've been overworking my mind—worrying about this and that, instead of just letting go and letting God.

Yes, my dearest Clara, despite the growth I've achieved in my spiritual journey closer to God, I still cannot rightly claim to have this relationship with the Lord down pat. There is still a lot of pain that needs to be healed, brokenness that requires mending, issues that cry out for resolution and closure.

It's very hard, Clara. I'm sorry if I sound so vague—although I believe you know exactly what I'm talking about.

CORRALES. Guests with Pepe Pimentel on Inday's TV show.

I remember a friend who had a dislocated elbow. For many years, he babied his pain. Finally, he consulted a chiropractor—who dislocated the elbow further!

My friend screamed in pain and almost lost consciousness. His wordless question: "Why did you do that?" The doctor understood and replied, "I had to break it to set it right again."

Clara, mine has been a dislocated life for many years now. The Greatest Chiropractor must finally be setting it right.

Pilita and Pepe

We nostalgically march down memory lane on "Inday, Heart to Heart" tomorrow, Sunday, July 20, 10:30-11:30 a.m., GMA-7, as golden duo Pilita Corrales and Pepe Pimentel reminisce about the good, old days. Don't miss it.

Thanks to our sponsors: San Miguel Corp. (Coca Cola, Royal Tru Orange, Sprite, Lift and Viva Mineral Water), Samsung, Tender Bob's Steaks, Potion Planet, Home & Lifestyle, American Blues, Yamaha Clavinova, Celine and the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Please e-mail your comments and insights to <badids2000@yahoo.com>

Hottest . . .

From page E2

clude Super Sonic V, the highest indoor coaster ride in the country; Roaring Rapids, with its 980-meter watercourse; Thunder Cruiser, a modern octupus ride; Speed Bugs, for safe and fun collisions; the 40-meter-track Wild Wheels; the Grand Parade two-storey carousel; Dream Wheel, an indoor. Ferris wheel, and the Rainbow Racers.

Pearls and Precious Stones Village

Gloria Diaz will cut a long pearl garland to open the Pearls and Precious Stones Village at Alabang Festival Mall's Toll Wing section at 4 p.m. today. The opening kicks off a two-week sale of pearls and precious stones (until Aug. 3).

The village has 32 shops offering all kinds of pearls, gemstones and crystals, set in jewelry and accessory pieces. Today's events include a fashion show with 15 models, and a performance of *kulintang* music.

'Mutant X'

Every Saturday at 9 p.m. and Sunday at 12:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., Star World telecasts the exciting "Mutant X" series. The action-filled show is about a group of reluctant heroes who were made unwitting test subjects of genetic experimentation.

As a result, they've developed astonishing powers that continue to evolve and intensify. With Adam Kane as their leader, the mutants are thrust into situations and secret missions to help others when conventional methods have failed.

Feedback

From Manny G. Ornedo of Pasay City: "Your listing of good movies to see on cable TV is a welcome guide for televiewers like me who tend to get swamped by so many offerings on the TV screen. But, could you make them more regular, and more comprehensive? Not just HBO and Cinemax, but the other movie channels as well . . ."

NUT: Thanks for your appreciative note. "Movies on TV" comes out regularly in this column every Saturday. As for the other movie channels, we do run lists of their better films when they send us their schedules in advance.

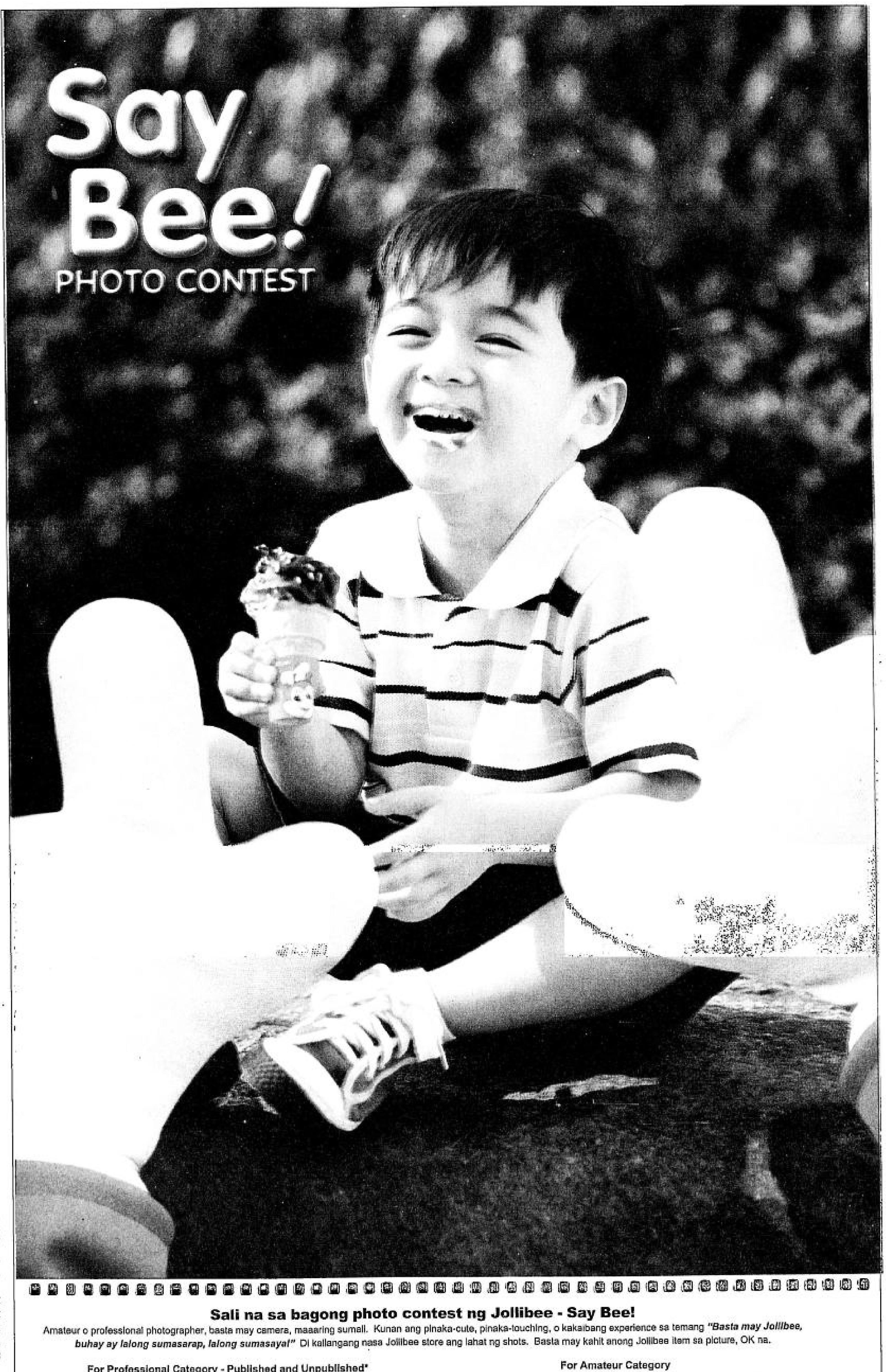
Movies on TV

On HBO: July 19 at 7:30 a.m., "Rugrats in Paris." 9 a.m., "Stealing Beauty." 11 a.m., "Sleepless in Seattle." 9 p.m., "America's Sweethearts." 5 a.m., "Best in Show." July 20 at 6:30 p.m., "Cats and Dogs." 3:15 a.m., "Too Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar."

July 21 at 4 p.m., "Over the Top." July 22 at 9:30 a.m., "Little Shop of Horrors." July 23 at 3:15 p.m., "The River." July 24 at 11 a.m., "The Masque of the Red Death." 9 p.m., "Ocean's Eleven." 11 p.m., "Riding in Cars with Boys." July 25 at 11 a.m., "Rock Star."

On the Cinemax Channel: July 19 at 9 p.m., "Mission Impossible, 2." July 20 at 3:45 p.m., "Lean on Me." July 21 at 12:45 p.m., "Mr. Deeds Goes to Town." July 22 at 5:45 p.m., "Strictly Ballroom." 9 p.m., "300 Miles to Graceland." 4:15 a.m., "Black Moon Rising."

July 23 at 9 p.m., "The Bonfire of the Vanities." July 24 at 2 p.m., "This Property Is Condemned."



Sali na sa bagong photo contest ng Jollibee - Say Bee!

Amateur o professional photographer, basta may camera, maaaring sumali. Kunan ang pinaka-cute, pinaka-touching, o kakaibang experience sa temang ***"Basta may Jollibee, buhay ay lalong sumasarap, lalong sumasaya!"*** Di kailangang nasa Jollibee store ang lahat ng shots. Basta may kahit anong Jollibee item sa picture, OK na.

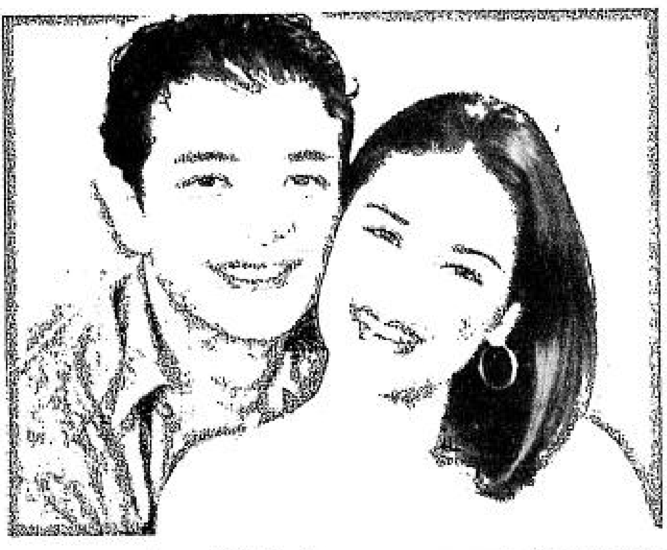
For Professional Category - Published and Unpublished*
1st prize : P 25,000, winner's trophy and a Jollibee Kiddie Party Package
2nd prize: P 15,000, winner's trophy and a Jollibee Kiddie Party Package
3rd prize: P 10,000, winner's trophy and a Jollibee Kiddie Party Package
Consolation prize for finalists: P 3,000, plaque and Jollibee Gift Certificates
*There will be 2 sets of winners for this category

For Amateur Category
1st prize : P 15,000, winner's trophy and a Jollibee Kiddie Party Package
2nd prize: P 10,000, winner's trophy and a Jollibee Kiddie Party Package
3rd prize : P 7,000, winner's trophy and a Jollibee Kiddie Party Package
Consolation prize for finalists: P 2,000, plaque and Jollibee Gift Certificates

Kunin ang camera at sumali. Baka ikaw ang susunod na maging larawan ng tagumpay! For more details, visit the Jollibee store nearest you.

Buhay Jollibee. Lalong sumasarap.

How TV can serve young Filipino viewers better



JERICHO Rosales and Kristine Hermosa are among the favorite stars of the youngsters polled for the survey conducted by the Southeast Asian Foundation for Children's Television.

By Nestor U. Torre

SOME weeks ago, I joined Randy David and Nic Tiongson in assessing the findings of a nationwide survey conducted by the Southeast Asian Foundation for Children's Television on the viewing preferences of Filipino children and teenagers. My take on the topic:

First, I appreciate the foundation's decision to conduct this nationwide survey of the youth's televiewing preferences.

For decades now, parents, educators, TV people and civic and government leaders have been arguing about what young viewers want and should get in terms of television programming. But, in many instances, these are educated guesses at best.

There's nothing like hearing it from the young viewers themselves, and this is what this survey provides: actual viewing preferences of youths aged 6-12 and 13-18.

Problems

Now that they have spoken, more informed reactions can be made, and better remedies to problems worked out.

What are our young viewers telling us by way of these survey results? First, that there really is cause for concern over the nature and effects of the television programs that young Filipinos are exposed to.

Young viewers are watching different kinds of TV shows with all sorts of program content at all hours of the day and night, so people working in television have to exercise greater caution and responsibility in doing their work.

This must go beyond merely flashing a Parental Guidance advisory on many TV shows and expecting that to take care of possible problems arising from the programs they telecast.

We urge TV workers to be extra judicious and concerned in this regard, because young people are particularly vulnerable to more mature inputs on TV that they aren't ready to make sense of and assimilate.

Tendency

There's also the tendency for them to take much of what they see and hear on TV as gospel truth, and thus worth imitating. So, when TV hosts insult women and poke fun at the elderly, young viewers may think it's OK and even cool to do the same, with unfortunate results.

Therefore let's take the Anak TV survey seriously and learn from its findings so that our millions of young Filipino viewers will be better served by what they see on television.

For example, we learn from the survey results that viewers 6 to 12 years old have for their favorite male and female TV stars only teenage and adult personalities, with no child performer in all of the Top 50 choices.

What does this tell us? Filipino children aren't being given enough child talents on the TV screen to empathize with. Instead, they're relating to talents years and even decades older than they are. No wonder it's been observed that Filipino youngsters are growing up too fast for their own good.

Child talents

Our TV channels should therefore be strongly encouraged to build up child talents much more than they're doing now, so that young viewers will have role models right for their age.

Note, too, that most of the youth's favorite TV stars appear in soap operas and sitcoms. This shows how powerful television is, not just in influencing but also in initiating and molding children's preferences—a power that TV people should exercise more judiciously.

The plot thickens when we observe that soap operas and sitcoms aren't exactly wholesome viewing fare for children. If the stars of these shows top their list of favorites, what is this saying about what they're getting—and liking—on the tube?

Addition

When we shift our attention to the 13- to 18-year-olds polled for the survey, we get pretty much the same teen and adult celebrities—but with the addition of some sexy stars. This is because sexy stars are featured extensively on the tube, even during the daytime hours, and sexiness has become a staple on local TV.

This is a problem not just for children but for teen viewers as well, because it makes sexiness a constant, leering and desirable presence in their lives. Adult behavior is OK for adults, but for children and teens, it's something else again.

From the survey findings thus far, we infer that television has become a major formative factor in young people's lives, for good or for bad. We trust that our TV workers are aware of this, and make this awareness inform their work. (To be concluded)

Depp says . . .

From page E1

"I'll compromise to a certain degree with respect to the character, but I'm never going to compromise the integrity of what I do with the character."

His character, Jack Sparrow, could have been the typical dashing rogue. But imbued with Depp's quirks and tics, he's a pirate who sashays instead of struts, with a cobbled-together fashion sense that includes dreadlocks and loads of trinkets in his hair.

For the filmmakers, Depp brought not only a willingness to hurl himself into the swashbuckler's role, but also a depth and integrity that helped lift "Pirates" above its Disneyland roots.

"We felt it needed an actor whose presence would tell you it's not just a movie about a theme-park ride," producer Bruckheimer said. "Johnny Depp does that. He has such an interesting body of work behind him that you know you're getting something more."

Companion

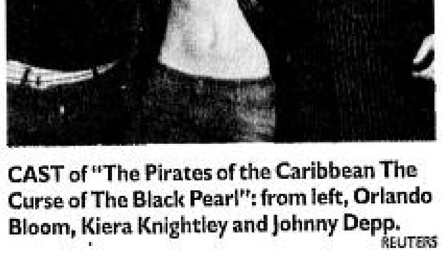
Now the father of a four-year-old daughter and one-year-old son with his companion, actress Vanessa Paradis, Depp relishes the idea of making films his whole family might one day sit down to watch.

Long before he met Paradis and signed on for a Disney family flick, though, Depp sensed he was working toward a legacy to leave for his children.

"When 'Cry-Baby' and then 'Scissorhands' came around, I looked at it as, OK, this is sort of a one-off deal. I'll stick to my guns as long as I can, till they just get sick of me, and don't hire me for the movies I want to make.

"But I figured that I'd have at least this little bag of films that I did that I could be proud of, and one day when I had kids, that they could be proud of. I made the decision back then to leave something behind I could be proud of. And I think it's a miracle that I'm still working. It's an absolute miracle that I still get jobs!"

AP



CAST of "The Pirates of the Caribbean The Curse of The Black Pearl": from left, Orlando Bloom, Kiera Knightley and Johnny Depp.

REUTERS

THE BOLD THAT DARED.
TYPE1JEANS

LEVI'S TYPE1 winners of the DARE TO GO BOLD promo.
Enrico Nacino (Pasig City) On Enrico: Levi's jacket, Levi's Type 1 slim shirt, 901 Standard Fit jeans in rigid-like finish.
Avon Dadang (Cagayan de Oro City) On Avon: Levi's jacket, 927 Boot Cut jeans in mid-ridged finish.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1155 Series of 2003

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY Spe... Super

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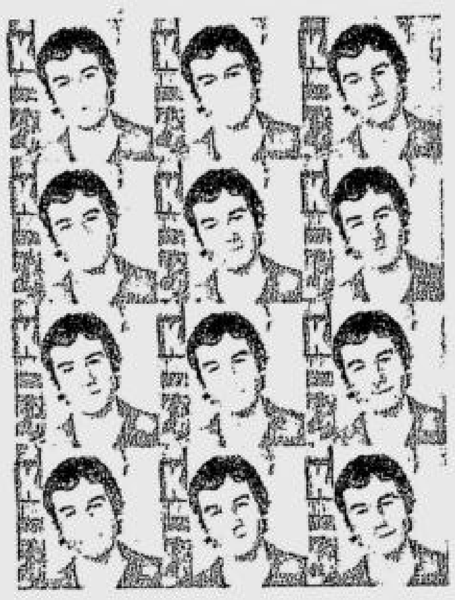
Getting high on good music



'Music should be made for the right reasons,' says visiting star and practicing Buddhist Duncan Sheik. 'Fame is an extraordinary meaningless thing.'

by
Maui Reyes

"JUST pretend we're at home and having a normal conversation with Duncan Sheik," the moderator told media people who, only a few minutes ago, couldn't stop raving about Duncan's recent two-day performance in the country, but who were now shying away from the microphone.

It's 12:30 p.m. in a function room of Discovery Suites, where the press conference is being held. On a makeshift platform sat Sheik himself, laid-back and grinning.

But it's hard not to get a starstruck win front of this Montclair, New Jersey-born musician. His self-titled debut album, released in 1996, spawned the hits "Barely Breathing" and "She Runs Away." And no one could get "Wishful Thinking," theme of "Great Expectations," out of their heads when the movie was released.

Sheik has also worked with other artists such as Nick Drake, and collaborated with playwright Stephen Sater on his third album, "Phantom Moon." In turn, he has helped give life to plays with his music. His latest, "Spring Awakening," drew raves from the New York press, and he's currently working on yet another play.

On top of this, he also got to play for the Cuban cultural exchange mission with the likes of Indigo Girls and REM's Peter Buck, as well as the War Child Organization's concert in Kosovo. His latest album, "Daylight," takes on a pop-pier note as it steadily climbs the charts.

Is there anything this 33-year old musician can't do?

"I'm a terrible trumpet player," he confessed. "My grandfather plays the trumpet, and I (also) tried to, but I don't know, I hurt my mouth or something."

A 'happy tragedy'

Sheik went to Brown University with Lisa Loeb, whom he played in a band with. His solo demos soon got Atlantic Records' attention, and in 1996, his debut album, "Duncan Sheik," went gold. The album had a dark, depressing mood, the polar opposite of what "Daylight" serves up.

"I guess 'Phantom Moon' was very somber," he said. "(Sater) wrote about very sad things, and after I finished making the record, I was in the mood to do something totally different and other-side-of-the-coin, and maybe a little more modern."

One who once said he didn't really care if he made it on Total Request Live or not, Sheik admitted that crossing over to pop was like treading "dangerous waters."

"I think what you call pop music is very subjective," he explained. "There are some pop music that I think is really great, and really universal. And then there are those that seem to be made for the wrong reasons, very predictable and cliché, and they sound horrible to me. So you just kind of try and make pop music that people can sink their teeth into, understand and enjoy."

Constant touring and his given lifestyle may result in hundreds of notebooks filled with random thoughts and songs. But Sheik said his work, were often "in fiction." He laughed: "I've run out of real-life experiences."

He said listening to other people's music and reading books and poetry helped him jot down his own feelings and emotions. "It's like being 13 years old and writing in your diary, it's kind of embarrassing actually. I think at that point, hopefully you evolve to where you can write songs that are about other things and other themes, and maybe deal with other things like fantasy ... but which have their own kind of poetic reality. It's fun to blur the line between fact and fiction."

GETTING/ F4

DUNCAN Sheik barely breathing while on a high.
PHOTOS BY MAUI V. REYES

onstage 2nyt

Cowboy Grill

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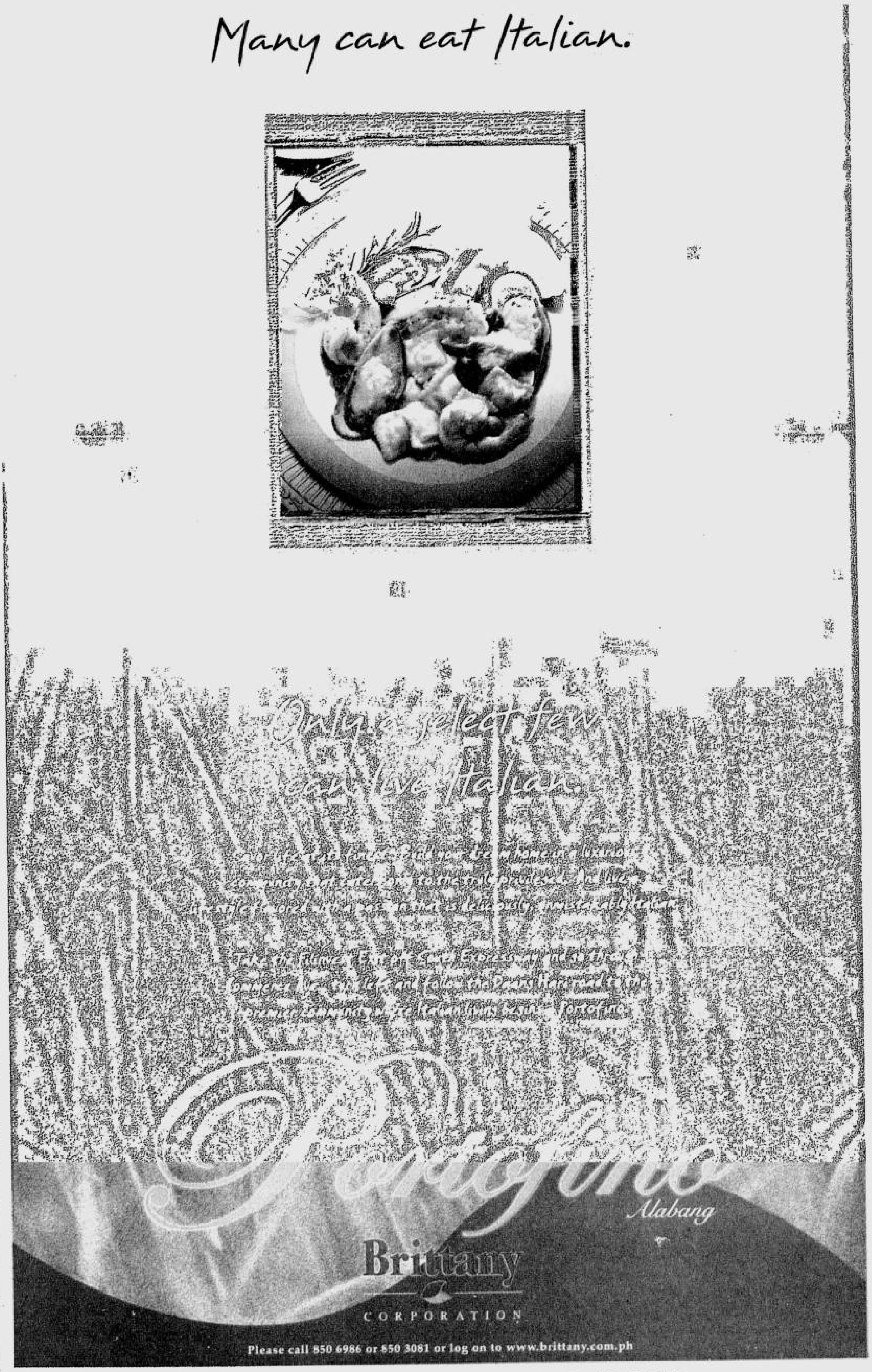

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Amanda Griffin @ Mercato

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by Tina Pamintuan

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I WANT red...You want white...so why not get BOTH!

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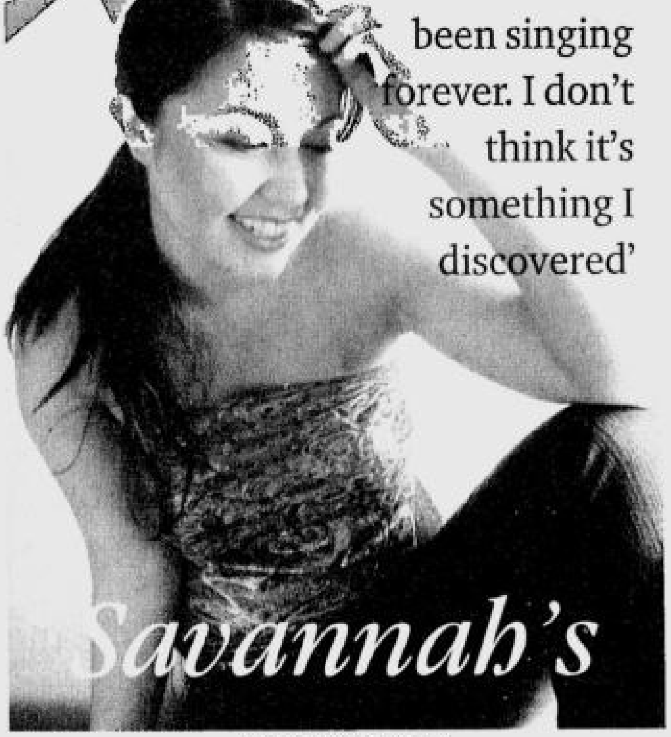
WOW! whee...it just jumped out of my hand



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Self-confidence and faith in her art were the foremost things she learned while recording her album. "I gained a level of confidence from it because the fact that I was just this little girl, going to work with more experienced people ... it was kinda scary (at first). I learned to stand up for my songs, damn, I wrote them and I'm not gonna let you play around with them if I don't want you to. Fought for what I really wanted done—even if I was only 16."

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The pirates cannot, and will not, be beaten—not the least because of the law of supply and demand. Consumers want the latest movies and CDs. If they can get it at P30 a pop, there's just no way to stop 'em.

All over the world, the entertainment business is on its knees waiting for the knock-out punch. One in every three CDs sold around the world is fake, making piracy a $4.5-billion industry. As a result, the local entertainment industry is forced to shape up or ship out.

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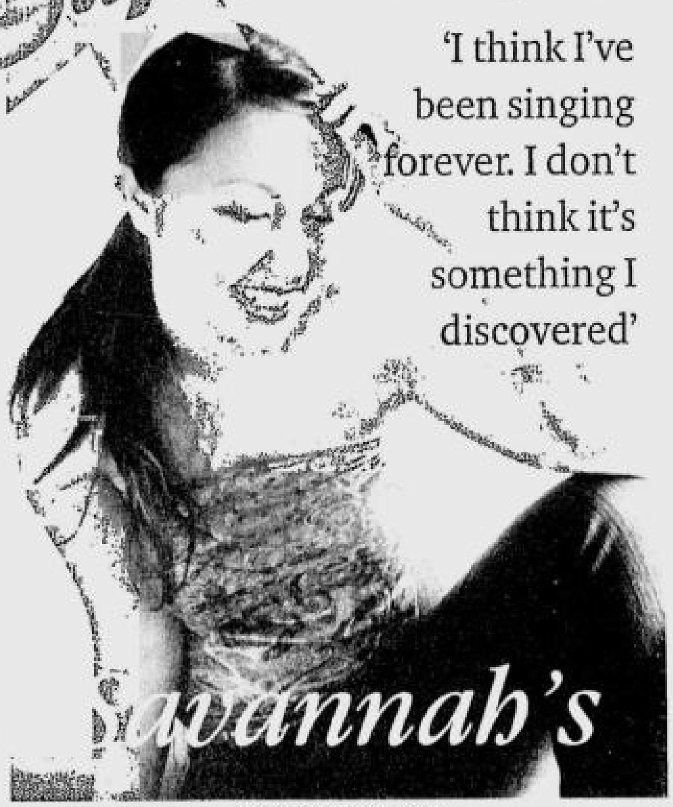

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E-mail the author at swak_by_lex@yahoo.com

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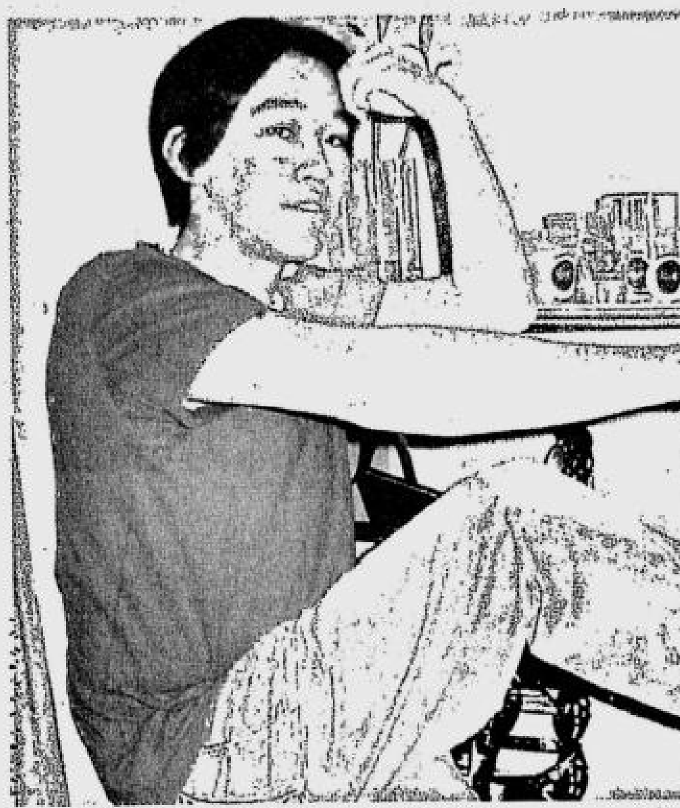

SPILL IT OUT. Gutsy Au after his Green Planet gig

DJs Pat Maxwell and Gutsy Au. Their energy is fresh. Pure. They just want to make beautiful music that friends will dance to.

PASSION PERSONIFIED. DJ Pat Maxwell in the lounge

ober music
greenplanet: fridays, july 2003
Pat Maxwell & Gutsy Au
"the better days"
OOBER friday special

OOBER MUSIC...Dark in between light

They've got the beat

By Tim Yap
Photos by Rudy Esperas

WHAT do you do when you're sick and tired of listening to the same old DJs spinning tried-and-tested tracks, and of the people who just stand around, watching?

Well, you form your own club.

That's exactly what childhood buddies, now business partners slash DJs, Pat Maxwell and Gutsy Au did. The 19- and 18-year-old duo set up Oober Music, currently making noise in the metro with its fresh breed of progressive and funky house influenced by New York (where they are both studying), San Francisco and London sounds.

Oober means super (our favorite word) in German. "So it goes without saying that you'll hear super music all night," said Pat, as I went around with the young DJ slash promoter around Greenbelt, where he, with his posse, distributed fliers to scenesters in the bars and clubs.

What started out as a hobby when they were high schoolers at International School, has become a full-time passion. At home, moments are devoted to listening to records and defining their style. When they're out, they promote their Friday night gig. "We want to capture the essence of what a club is all about—good music and letting loose on the dance floor," said Gutsy, reminding this town's partyphiles what they seem to have forgotten.

I like their energy. Fresh. Pure. They are now at that stage when they just want to make beautiful music that friends will dance to. Commerce is the last thing on their mind at the moment. I don't get the vibe, again at the moment, that they are out there to get sponsorships.

Oh, I almost forgot—Pat is the son of philanthropist and cultural doyenne Doris Ho; Gutsy is the son of scene-shaker Carminia Pavia. But that's another story.

Midas Marquez, owner of Green Planet on Jupiter St. and proud promoter of new DJ talents—he has granted residencies to scene favorites Kevin Ruiz, Benjo Marquez, Roman Mojica, among other icons—heard about the young and dynamic DJ duo, gave them a trial set, and liked what he heard. "I wanted to give them a break—I like their music. It's music that you don't normally hear in other clubs."

Let's see if these two can sweep Manila off their feet once more.

If D.J. could mean anything else to you aside from disc jockey, what would it be?

Pat Maxwell: I would say disco junkie.

Gutsy Au: Haha! I'd say dance, just. People have to dance.

What is more important, mixing skills or good records?

PM: I think good records is more important for a DJ because even if the DJ's technical skills are not the greatest, if he puts on the right record for that specific moment, then that makes a good DJ.

GA: Both of course! If you take one away from the other, it just doesn't work.

Locally, who is the ultimate DJ? Internationally?

PM: Locally, the ultimate DJ for me is Kevin Ruiz. I have heard him play some awesome sets. Internationally, Deep Dish, because they know how to move a crowd, and their music is something else.

GA: Kevin Ruiz. He's my predecessor. Danny Tenaglia—he's my idol. He's in it for the music, not the fame.

Whose private party do you dream of playing for?

PM: I dream of playing at the private party for our best fans because they are the ones who know how to party and the ones who will dance all night. And I'd love to spin a set with Sasha.

GA: Yup, my number one fan. And should I be given a chance to play for Dirty Vegas, that would be great.

What would your opening track be then?

PM: The kind of music that I play ranges from light, funky house, to dark progressive beats.

GA: Depends... It depends on the mood. Mine would be "Elements" by Danny Tenaglia. Why? It gives the crowd knowledge of what a DJ does.

Is it true that the DJ always gets the girl?

PM: It depends on who the girl is .... anything could happen.

GA: haha! Maybe...

Any pre and post gig rituals?

PM and GA: A toast before the night starts, a prayer, a last toast before the night ends.

What is the DJ's most important body part?

PM: His ears—to be able to listen.

GA: Yeah. Same here, the ears. If you can't hear what's playing, it would be very hard to play with the crowd.

Given the chance, my first album/compilation would be entitled...

PM: Oober—"Dark in between light."

GA: First of all, our group's name, Oober. Something dark, something mysterious.

Everybody now is a DJ. What sets you apart?

PM: What sets us apart is our music.

GA: Our music, I guess. Every DJ has a style. Just depends on who likes it or not.

(Oober music DJs Pat Maxwell and Gutsy Au spin their music every Friday at Green Planet until mid August.)

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Getting high on good music

From page F1

Connecting with the universe

Sheik recalled the first song he ever wrote: "I was in Mexico and I had this kind of unrequited love for this older woman. I was 19. So I wrote this song called 'Raindrop Doves.' I think I was listening to the Cocktail Twins a lot at the time. I wrote the song for her, she liked the song, but not me."

He's quick to laugh about it now.

"I think the most important thing is that the music that you create ... that you're really deeply moved by yourself as an artist," he said. "If that happens, chances are it's going to move other people. Because there's a universal spirit that connects us all. So the important thing is that you really love yourself."

Sheik very much believes in doing your own thing, regardless of what other people think. Asked what made his music special, he replied: "As long you make music for the right reasons and it's coming from the right place, anyone's music can be special."

His choice to not conform with what society considers Top 40 makes him endearing. Rolling Stone gave "Daylight" a two-star rating, and "Phantom Moon" only two and half, quite a difference from his debut's four stars. But it didn't faze him at all. "Whatever happens is what happens, and fame is actually an extraordinary meaningless thing."

While on the subject of other musicians, he give encourages other acoustic music makers. "I hope they all make it, because in a certain way, it's a much better option than a lot of the other things out there that become huge," he said.

Given the chance to work with anyone, dead or alive, his choices to share the studio with included "people like David Silvian ... somebody like Paul Buchanan from The Blue Nile ... Bjork."

Wine, yoga, dogs

Apart from his extensive record collection, which includes many foreign albums and English "artsy bands," Sheik said he was fond of wine, yoga, and dogs.

"I grew up in South Carolina and first we had a Golden Retriever, then a German Shepherd, and a Black Lab, and my mom had a couple of West Highland Terriers. But I like big dogs. I'll probably get a Rottweiler."

He also collects guitars. At latest count, he said, he had at least 30 at home, ranging from Les Pauls to Gibsons to Froggy Bottoms, and the occasional purchased-abroad guitar.

The press was at last having a field day. Sheik agreed to perform a few songs, and before reaching for his acoustic guitar, he recounted one of his most embarrassing experiences.

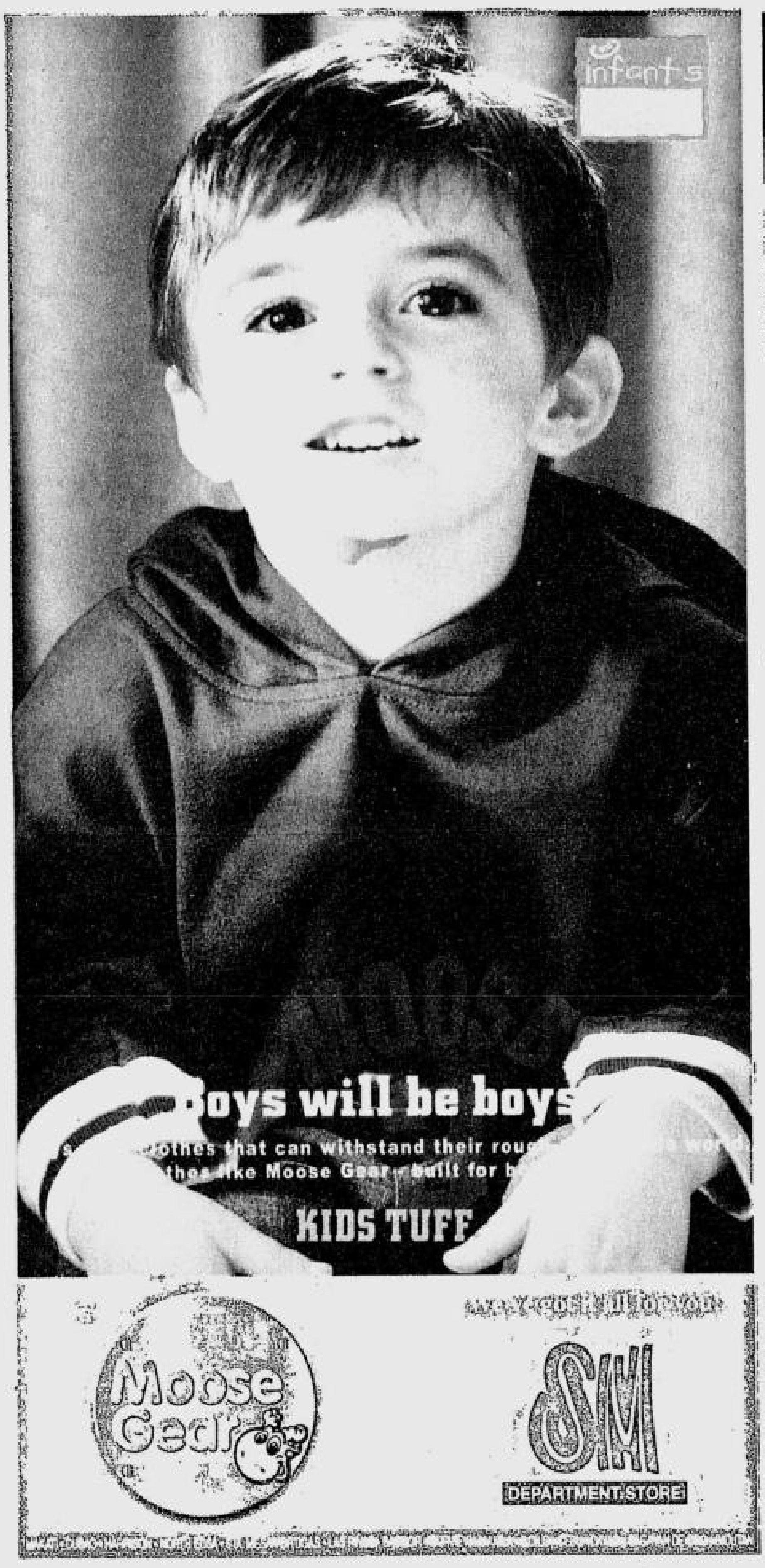
"When I was 13 years old, I was in a school jazz band. Everyone in the band, like 30 people, are kind of like, seated. I stood up to take my big guitar solo during this one song, and I was sure it was terrible. I went back to my seat and missed it. So I fell over and knocked everyone else down. The amp had a reverb on, and this made the hugest sound ever, so my first guitar solo was a disaster. So I don't really play lead guitar anymore."

JAMMING with Duncan Sheik.

A practicing Buddhist (he met Sater in a lay Buddhist organization), Sheik also shared his dharma (inculcation, way of life) with the press: "The most important thing is that you create values somehow. If you're a songwriter, you write songs that move people. Whatever you do, you have to do it with the right experience and with the desire to make people happy. That doesn't mean that it has to be happy music. You just have to connect with family, and make them feel something deep and profound and human."

And then he played his hits, "Barely Breathing" and "On a High."

(Duncan Sheik will perform tonight at the Aliw Theater of the CCP in Roxas Boulevard. His album, "Daylight," is out under Warner Music Philippines.)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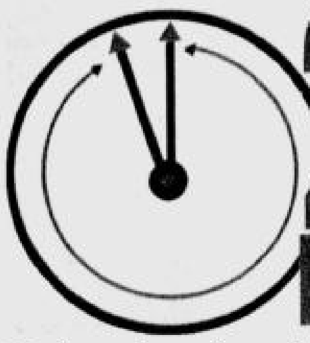

24 HOURS with Dominic Ochoa

by
Pam Pastor

CHARISMA.

If there's one constant in Dominic Ochoa's personality, this is it.

He exudes unbelievable charm.

In a span of 24 hours, he slipped in and out of clothes (sometimes in a car stuck in traffic), walked in and out of places, and interacted with all kinds of people while battling what suspiciously looked like the flu.

24 HOURS/ G2

We found out how big the guy really is and we discovered the size of his... heart

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Malnutrition among Senior Citizens

Is Papa malnourished? How to tell

2nd of 5 parts

One Sunday lunch with the family, 74-year old Papa looked thinner, his polo shirt seemed unusually loose. Although his children wanted to dismiss the observation, the truth was, Papa was a bit pale too, especially his mouth and lips.

Right before their eyes, Papa was showing signs of malnutrition. His children brought him to the doctor, fearing these signs could easily have serious health consequences.

A Closer Look at Papa

When a caregiver is with your loved one everyday, it is possible not to notice the signs of malnutrition until the symptoms have become more evident in a matter of months.

To help determine if Papa or Mama is already showing the effects of their poor eating habits and poor nutritional intake, caregivers must watch out for the following physical signs:

- Weight loss
- Muscle wasting (decrease in size of muscle tissue)
- Clothes now seem to have a looser fit
- Obesity
- Pale lips and mouth
- Cracks around the mouth
- Thinning of hair
- Sunken eyes
- Loved one seems confused but doesn't have Alzheimer's disease
- Wounds take longer to heal / chronic infection
- Loss of balance
- Pressure ulcer (otherwise known as bed sore)
- Presence of edema (a swelling of the legs/feet due to excess water retention)
- Lack of energy; apathy

Consequences of prolonged malnutrition

The heart becomes weaker

Immune system is less able to protect against infection

Intestines are less able to absorb the nutrients that are ingested

Delayed healing of wounds

Increased risk of pressure sores

Loss of muscle strength

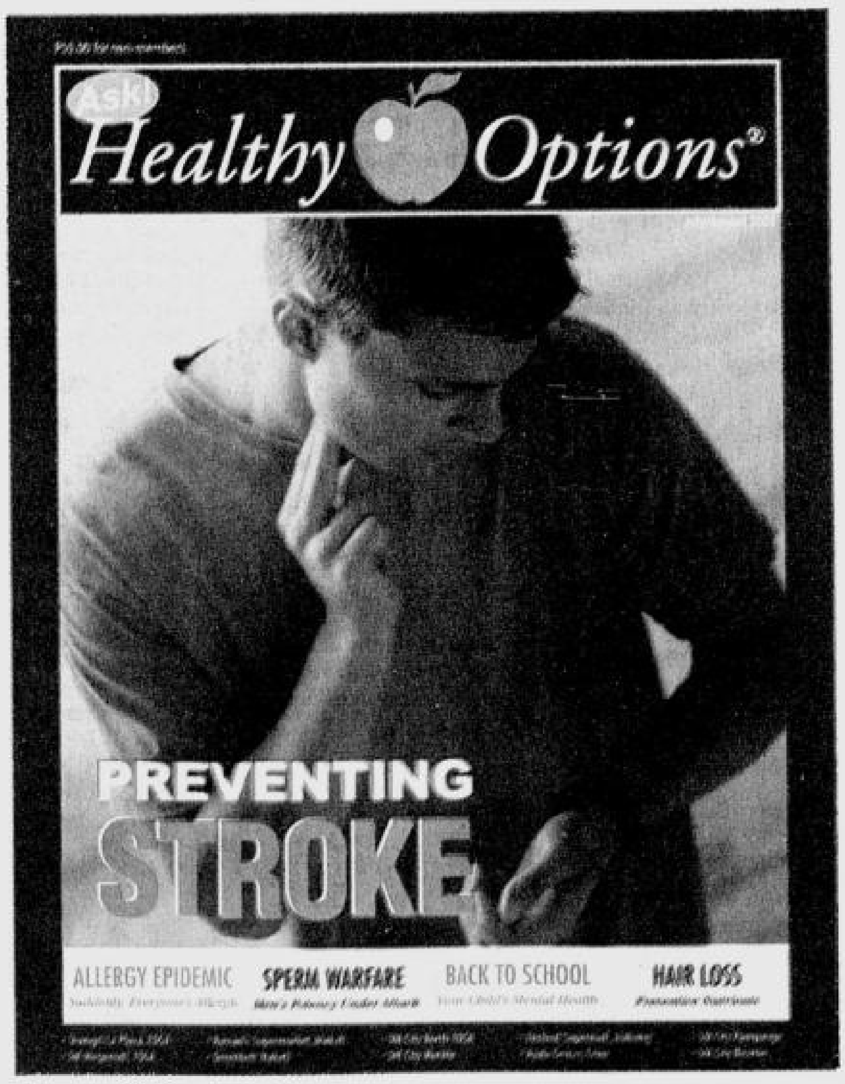
Increased complications after surgery (e.g. sepsis, wound infection, pneumonia)

In this case, Papa's malnutrition was treated, his mineral imbalances were corrected, his caloric intake normalized. He was given complete oral meal replacement for a more balanced nutrition.

It pays to be suspicious of loved ones who show weight loss, display fatigue and most of the other signs of malnutrition so you can help them gain back a healthier life.

Help your senior loved ones regain a healthier life. Heed the signs of malnutrition and consult your doctor about Ensure - the complete and balanced oral meal replacement.

Know your options.



Everyone can have a stroke
The more you know about it,
the more equipped you'll become.

Risk factors of stroke :
☐ High blood pressure
☐ Heart disease of any type
☐ Cigarette smoking
☐ Age greater than 60 (risk increases as age advances)
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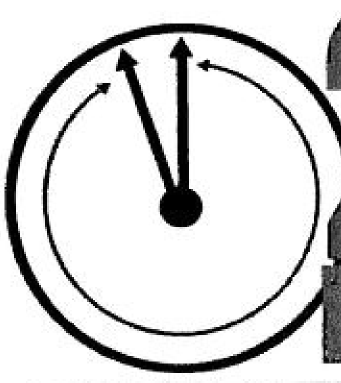
10:02 a.m. Freshly showered, Dominic emerges from the bathroom in a pink towel. "I'm so sick," he says as a greeting. He talks over the whirring of his mechanical toothbrush. And then, disappearing into his bedroom, he says, *"Bihis lang ako nang mabilis."*

10:17 a.m. He is dressed. He bustles around, checking plugs and electrical outlets. "I've been doing this since I was in high school, after a family friend's house burned down."

Dominic takes a major dose of Vitamin C and washes it down with a tall glass of orange juice. "I drink 2000 mg of Vitamin C every day."

PHOTOS BY PAM PASTOR
THANKS TO JET VALLE

10:28 a.m. Dominic leaves the house for a meeting. "I just want to do my errands today. Yesterday was too full," he says after telling Super! about the work he did the previous day. His words are punctuated with coughs. On the road from Parañaque to Makati, he speaks freely about his career and his concerns. "I've been stressed out, not because of me but because of other people's work. We need changes in the system."



24 HOURS with Dominic Ochoa

From page G1

Amazingly, his charisma never once wavered.

He charmed everyone—old ladies, a couple in the shoe store, a pregnant lady, salesgirls, spa attendants, little kids, autograph-seekers, camera-toting fans, students playing hooky, street urchins, colleagues and mallrats. And all this, effortlessly.

Was this something that fame taught him? "No, I was raised this way," he said simply.

The charm seems to be really working.

All aspects of his life have been so packed, leaving little time for relaxation. He spends most of his days taping for his television shows ("Whattamen," "Basta't Kasama Kita" and "Heart Attack," his weekly segment on "Teysi" that airs Fridays). He has been working on a movie with Sharon Cuneta and Aga Mulach. He just finished promotions for Private Property, a shirt brand he endorses. The little ice cream cones from the Thumbs Up stalls in different shopping areas that he put up with business partners have been gaining popularity and demand his serious attention. And he has recently started to devote more time to one of his major passions—cars (When he talks about cars, he gets really excited, his eyes light up. You'd think he was a mom talking about her babies.). He has started racing again and will be competing in the Ford Lynx Cup, which rolls at month's end.

But he knows when to take it slow. "Today's gonna be light," he said as the day began.

"Light," we soon learned, was a relative term.

One meeting, two food trips, three mall stops, one launch and one taping later, he said again, "It was a pretty light day."

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph.

(For Thumbs Up franchise inquiries, call 687-4373 or 687-3436.)

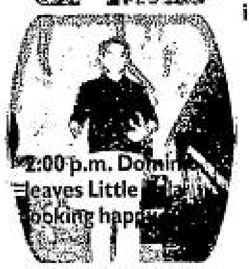
10:58 a.m. He walks into the office and says hi to everyone. "Papa Doms!" a girl calls out. "Hey, hot mama!" he calls out before seating himself. He makes phone calls while waiting for the meeting to start.
11:03 a.m. The meeting with Oakley starts. They talk about possible sponsorships for Dominic's participation in the upcoming Ford Lynx Cup.
11:24 a.m. Before he leaves the office, the girl who called out to him takes his picture with her mobile phone.

11:53 a.m. Dominic walks into Megamall. An old woman grabs his arm. "Doms, *gusto ko sanang magpa*-picture *sa iyo pero wala akong* camera. *Hahanapin na lang kita mamaya!*" **11:55 a.m.** He stops by Mendrez, his shoe sponsor. Salesgirls joke around with him as he picks out new footwear.

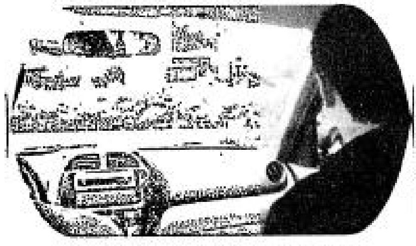
11:59 a.m. *"Ang tangos pala ng ilong mo! Ang bango mo!"* a lady wearing a face mask says to him. Dominic spends a few minutes talking with her.

12:07 p.m. Dominic tries on more shoes, finally settling on red sneakers, red-and-black slides, and two pairs of black leather shoes. "Should I wear these *na?*" he asks, looking at his reflection in the mirror. The lady with the face mask pipes up from behind, "Oo. *Tapos bigay mo sa akin yung luma.*" "Ma'am, *paborito ko 'to e,*" he says to her. "*Kunin nyo na lahat ng sapatos ko wag lang ito.*"

12:54 p.m. Next stop is Little Asia in Tomas Morato, where Dominic wants to have lunch. "I'm so hungry," he says. People call out to him from the other tables.
1:10 p.m. A feast of bacon-wrapped prawns, beef rolls, sweet-and sour pork and yang chow fried rice is laid out in front of him. Dominic starts eating. While enjoying the food, Dominic talks about what's been keeping him busy and shares his insights on life in the entertainment industry. Conversation is light and easy.



2:00 p.m. Domin[illegible] leaves Little [illegible] looking happ[illegible]



2:09 p.m. He drops by Cork inside the ABS-CBN compound to get his credit card, which he left there the previous night.

2:42 p.m. Dominic goes to SM City to visit his Thumbs-Up stall there. "I make it a point to visit a stall every week."

2:55 p.m. He starts talking to passers-by, asking them to try the small ice cream cones. He poses for pictures and signs autographs. Soon a crowd is gathered around the stall.

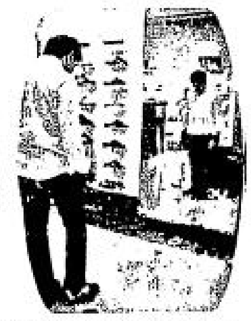
3:20 p.m. On the way out of SM City, Dominic stops to drink water.

4:10 p.m. Stuck in traffic, Dominic naps.

4:22 p.m. Dominic visits a spa to relax.
4:25 p.m. He decides on a treatment, going for the sports massage, which will supposedly soothe his aching body.

4:55 p.m. After spending time in the steam room, Dominic settles in for his massage.
6:41 p.m. On the way to Rockwell Power Plant, he changes clothes in the car, right in the middle of traffic, seemingly oblivious to the people who can see him. *"Gawain ko 'to,"* he says with a smile.

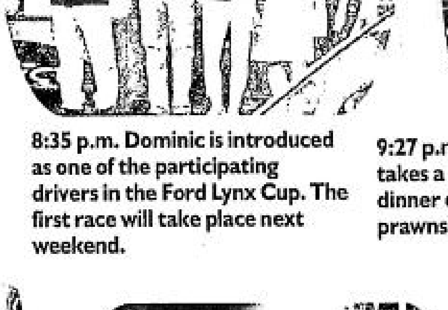
7:01 p.m. Dominic arrives and checks out the launch area of the Ford Lynx Cup.



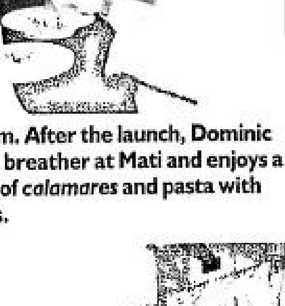
7:15 p.m. Seeing that the show hasn't started yet, Dominic walks around Rockwell and buys racing shoes from Shoe Salon.

7:50 p.m. He mingles with the people at the launch.

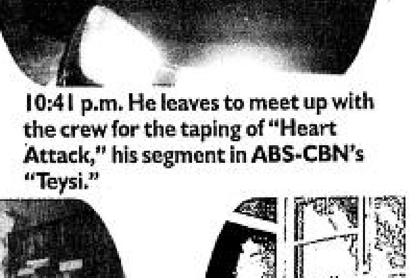
7:58 p.m. A TV crew interviews him.



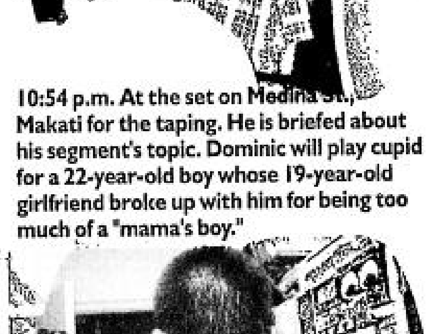
8:35 p.m. Dominic is introduced as one of the participating drivers in the Ford Lynx Cup. The first race will take place next weekend.



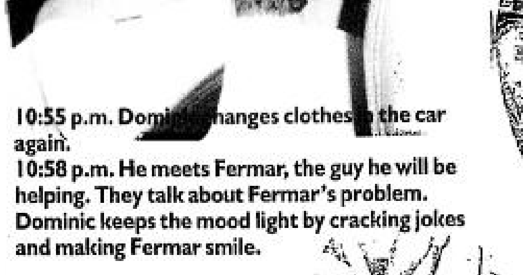
9:27 p.m. After the launch, Dominic takes a breather at Mati and enjoys a dinner of *calamares* and pasta with prawns.



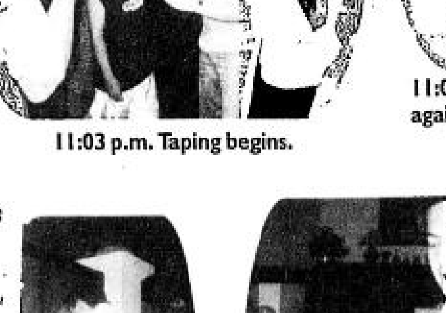
10:41 p.m. He leaves to meet up with the crew for the taping of "Heart Attack," his segment in ABS-CBN's "Teysi."



10:54 p.m. At the set on Medina St., Makati for the taping. He is briefed about his segment's topic. Dominic will play cupid for a 22-year-old boy whose 19-year-old girlfriend broke up with him for being too much of a "mama's boy."

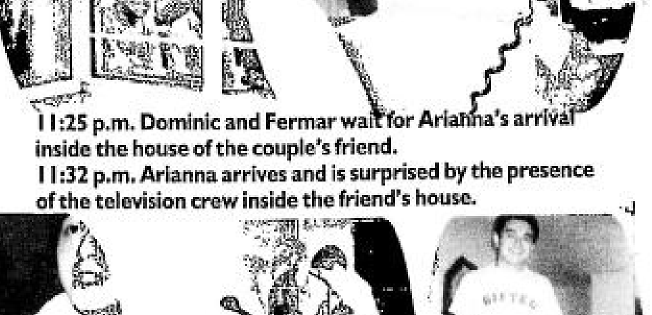


10:55 p.m. Domi[illegible]hanges clothes [illegible] the car again.
10:58 p.m. He meets Fermar, the guy he will be helping. They talk about Fermar's problem. Dominic keeps the mood light by cracking jokes and making Fermar smile.

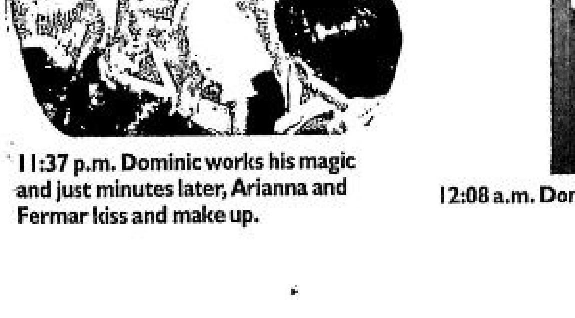


11:03 p.m. Taping begins.

11:08 p.m. Dominic talks to Fermar again, this time on camera.

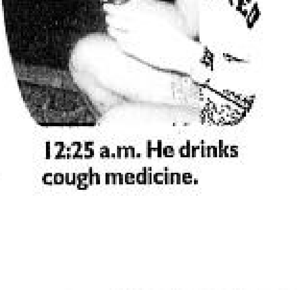


11:25 p.m. Dominic and Fermar wait for Arianna's arrival inside the house of the couple's friend.
11:32 p.m. Arianna arrives and is surprised by the presence of the television crew inside the friend's house.

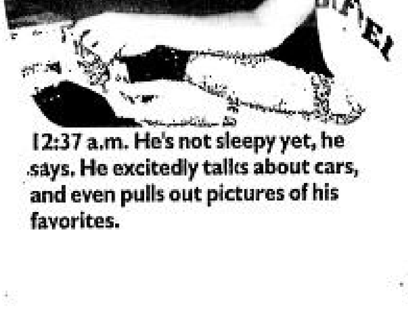


11:37 p.m. Dominic works his magic and just minutes later, Arianna and Fermar kiss and make up.

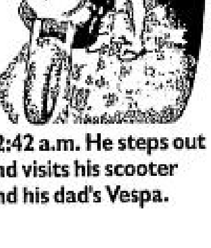
12:08 a.m. Dominic is finally home.



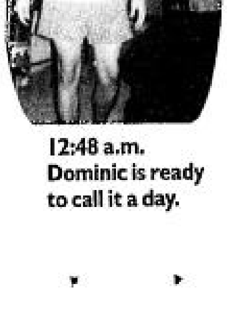
12:25 a.m. He drinks cough medicine.



12:37 a.m. He's not sleepy yet, he says. He excitedly talks about cars, and even pulls out pictures of his favorites.



12:42 a.m. He steps out and visits his scooter and his dad's Vespa.



12:48 a.m. Dominic is ready to call it a day.

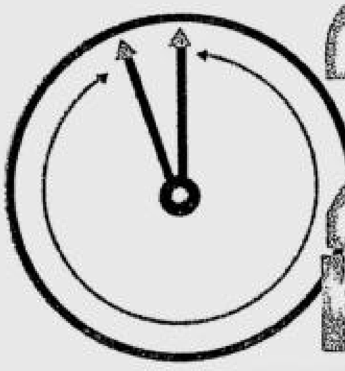
10:02 a.m. Freshly showered, Dominic emerges from the bathroom in a pink towel. "I'm so sick," he says as a greeting. He talks over the whirring of his mechanical toothbrush. And then, disappearing into his bedroom, he says, "*Bihis lang ako nang mabilis.*"

10:17 a.m. He is dressed. He bustles around, checking plugs and electrical outlets. "I've been doing this since I was in high school, after a family friend's house burned down."

Dominic takes a major dose of Vitamin C and washes it down with a tall glass of orange juice. "I drink 2000 mg of Vitamin C every day."

PHOTOS BY PAM PASTOR
THANKS TO JET VALLE

10:28 a.m. Dominic leaves the house for a meeting. "I just want to do my errands today. Yesterday was too full," he says after telling Super! about the work he did the previous day. His words are punctuated with coughs. On the road from Parañaque to Makati, he speaks freely about his career and his concerns. "I've been stressed out, not because of me but because of other people's work. We need changes in the system."



24 HOURS with Dominic Ochoa

From page G1

Amazingly, his charisma never once wavered.

He charmed everyone—old ladies, a couple in the shoe store, a pregnant lady, salesgirls, spa attendants, little kids, autograph-seekers, camera-toting fans, students playing hooky, street urchins, colleagues and mallrats. And all this, effortlessly.

Was this something that fame taught him? "No, I was raised this way," he said simply.

The charm seems to be really working.

All aspects of his life have been so packed, leaving little time for relaxation. He spends most of his days taping for his television shows ("Whattamen," "Basta't Kasama Kita" and "Heart Attack," his weekly segment on "Teysi" that airs Fridays). He has been working on a movie with Sharon Cuneta and Aga Mulach. He just finished promotions for Private Property, a shirt brand he endorses. The little ice cream cones from the Thumbs Up stalls in different shopping areas that he put up with business partners have been gaining popularity and demand his serious attention. And he has recently started to devote more time to one of his major passions—cars (When he talks about cars, he gets really excited, his eyes light up. You'd think he was a mom talking about her babies.). He has started racing again and will be competing in the Ford Lynx Cup, which rolls at month's end.

But he knows when to take it slow. "Today's gonna be light," he said as the day began.

"Light," we soon learned, was a relative term.

One meeting, two food trips, three mall stops, one launch and one taping later, he said again, "It was a pretty light day."

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph.

(For Thumbs Up franchise inquiries, call 687-4373 or 687-3436.)

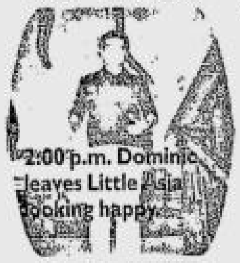
10:58 a.m. He walks into the office and says hi to everyone. "Papa Doms!" a girl calls out. "Hey, hot mama!" he calls out before seating himself. He makes phone calls while waiting for the meeting to start.
11:03 a.m. The meeting with Oakley starts. They talk about possible sponsorships for Dominic's participation in the upcoming Ford Lynx Cup.
11:24 a.m. Before he leaves the office, the girl who called out to him takes his picture with her mobile phone.

12:07 p.m. Dominic tries on more shoes, finally settling on red sneakers, red-and-black slides, and two pairs of black leather shoes. "Should I wear these *na*?" he asks, looking at his reflection in the mirror. The lady with the face mask pipes up from behind, "*Oo. Tapos bigay mo sa akin yung luma.*" "Ma'am, *paborito ko 'to e*," he says to her. "*Kunin nyo na lahat ng sapatos ko wag lang ito.*"

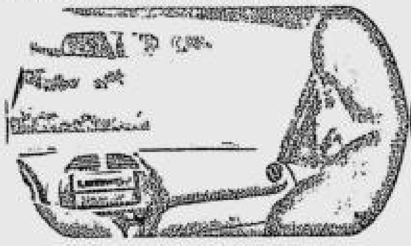
11:53 a.m. Dominic walks into Megamall. An old woman grabs his arm. "Doms, *gusto ko sanang magpa*-picture *sa iyo pero wala akong* camera. *Hahanapin na lang kita mamaya!*" **11:55 a.m.** He stops by Mendrez, his shoe sponsor. Salesgirls joke around with him as he picks out new footwear.

11:59 a.m. "*Ang tangos pala ng ilong mo! Ang bango mo!*" a lady wearing a face mask says to him. Dominic spends a few minutes talking with her.

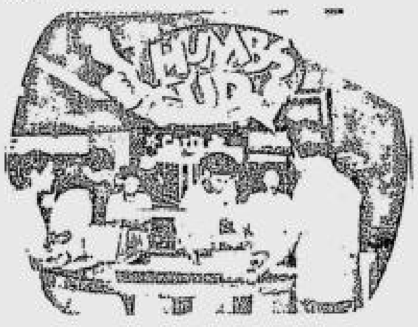
12:54 p.m. Next stop is Little Asia in Tomas Morato, where Dominic wants to have lunch. "I'm so hungry," he says. People call out to him from the other tables.
1:10 p.m. A feast of bacon-wrapped prawns, beef rolls, sweet-and sour pork and yang chow fried rice is laid out in front of him. Dominic starts eating. While enjoying the food, Dominic talks about what's been keeping him busy and shares his insights on life in the entertainment industry. Conversation is light and easy.



2:00 p.m. Dominic leaves Little Asia looking happy.



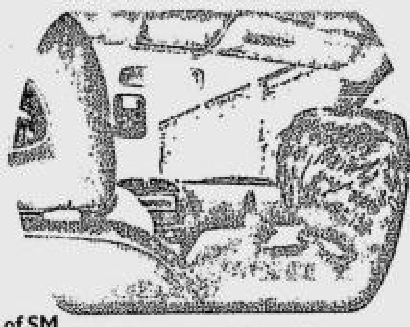
2:09 p.m. He drops by Cork inside the **ABS-CBN** compound to get his credit card, which he left there the previous night.



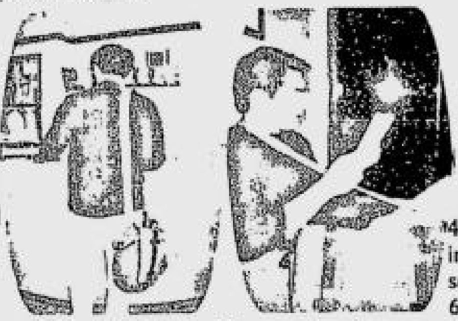
2:42 p.m. Dominic goes to SM City to visit his Thumbs-Up stall there. "I make it a point to visit a stall every week."

2:55 p.m. He starts talking to passers-by, asking them to try the small ice cream cones. He poses for pictures and signs autographs. Soon a crowd is gathered around the stall.

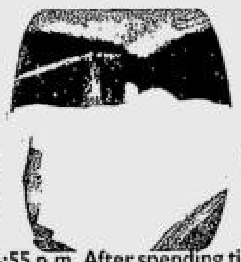
3:20 p.m. On the way out of SM City, Dominic stops to drink water.



4:10 p.m. Stuck in traffic, Dominic naps.

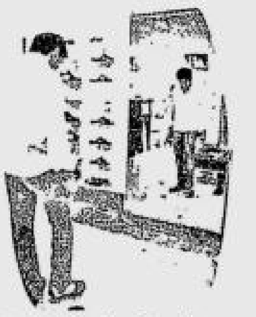


4:22 p.m. Dominic visits a spa to relax.
4:25 p.m. He decides on a treatment, going for the sports massage, which will supposedly soothe his aching body.



4:55 p.m. After spending time in the steam room, Dominic settles in for his massage.
6:41 p.m. On the way to Rockwell Power Plant, he changes clothes in the car, right in the middle of traffic, seemingly oblivious to the people who can see him. "*Gawain ko 'to*," he says with a smile.

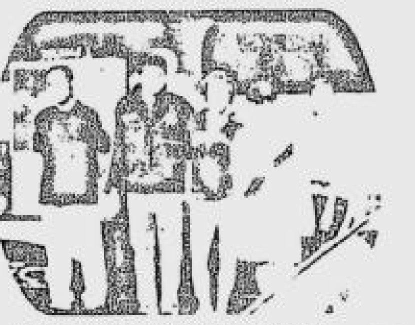
7:01 p.m. Dominic arrives and checks out the launch area of the Ford Lynx Cup.



7:15 p.m. Seeing that the show hasn't started yet, Dominic walks around Rockwell and buys racing shoes from Shoe Salon.

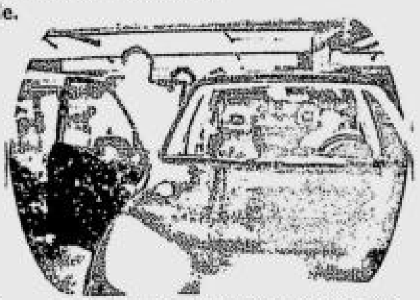
7:50 p.m. He mingles with the people at the launch.

7:58 p.m. A TV crew interviews him.

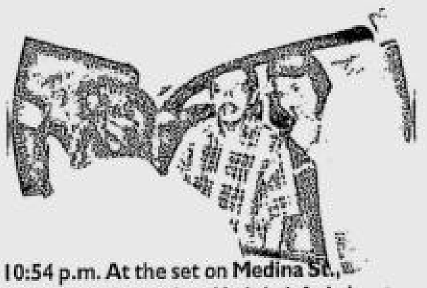


8:35 p.m. Dominic is introduced as one of the participating drivers in the Ford Lynx Cup. The first race will take place next weekend.

9:27 p.m. After the launch, Dominic takes a breather at Mati and enjoys a dinner of *calamares* and pasta with prawns.



10:41 p.m. He leaves to meet up with the crew for the taping of "Heart Attack," his segment in ABS-CBN's "Teysi."

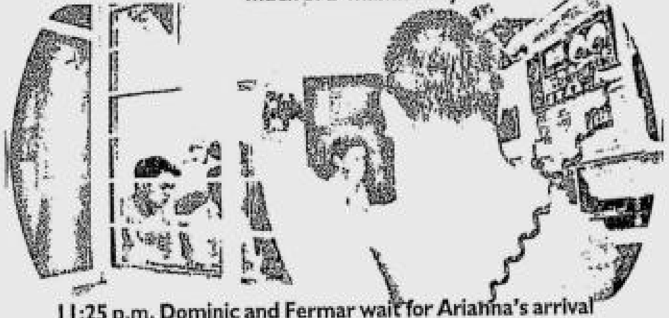


10:54 p.m. At the set on Medina St., Makati for the taping. He is briefed about his segment's topic. Dominic will play cupid for a 22-year-old boy whose 19-year-old girlfriend broke up with him for being too much of a "mama's boy."

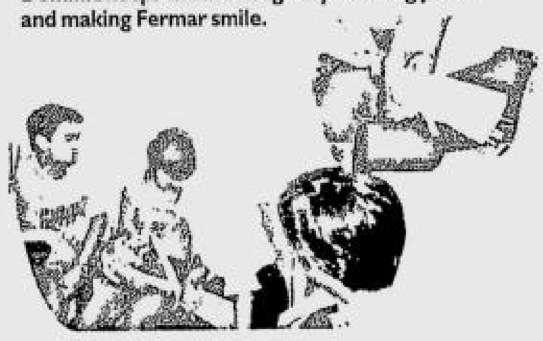
10:55 p.m. Dominic changes clothes in the car again.
10:58 p.m. He meets Fermar, the guy he will be helping. They talk about Fermar's problem. Dominic keeps the mood light by cracking jokes and making Fermar smile.

11:03 p.m. Taping begins.

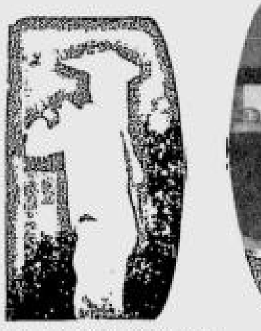
11:08 p.m. Dominic talks to Fermar again, this time on camera.



11:25 p.m. Dominic and Fermar wait for Arianna's arrival inside the house of the couple's friend.
11:32 p.m. Arianna arrives and is surprised by the presence of the television crew inside the friend's house.

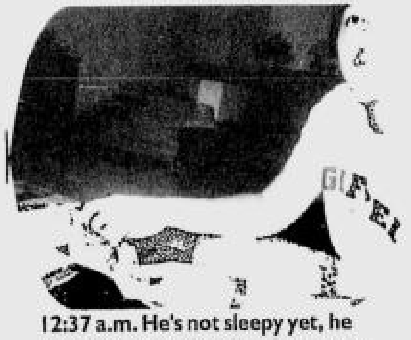


11:37 p.m. Dominic works his magic and just minutes later, Arianna and Fermar kiss and make up.



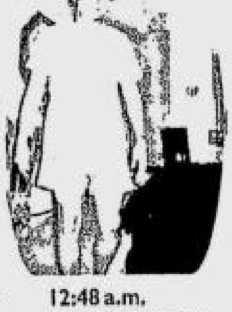
12:08 a.m. Dominic is finally home.

12:25 a.m. He drinks cough medicine.



12:37 a.m. He's not sleepy yet, he says. He excitedly talks about cars, and even pulls out pictures of his favorites.

12:42 a.m. He steps out and visits his scooter and his dad's Vespa.



12:48 a.m. Dominic is ready to call it a day.

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swatching terminator

Tim Yap

PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

THE AGE-old rage about man versus the machine is an overused plot, and this time it's set in Hollywood proportions via "Terminator 3," movie of the moment, with a 55-year-old **Arnold Schwarzenegger**, man-boobs and all, in a fight "to save the world from destruction" against his female version.

My path detector tells me that I am right-smack center at the Swatch theater, in the same seat I occupied some weeks back at My Cinema, to watch three foxy chicks in full throttle.

So what if the machines do take over us, humans? Unimaginable. A simple "message sending failed" is enough reason to drive one mad. What more if *they* are chasing you? Or, if all of a sudden we can't tell the time 'coz our watches don't feel like it anymore?

Scary.

Mercifully, I am surrounded by giant Swatches, reminding me that all is fine. Better still, I am surrounded by other giants, a.k.a., basketball champions—my man **Asi Taulava**, coach-with-the-most **Joel Banal**, most value-ball playah' **Bong Ravena**, and a host of otha' home boys.

Basketball's best

Tita **Virgie Ramos** tells me that these Talk N' Txters are the PBA's latest season topnotchers.

(Hmm, last time I watched basketball was in second grade, when the great battle was between Purefoods and Ginebra.)

"Yo, yo, yo!" I holler, looking up. "Peace, brother!" They reply showing off wrists that bear the latest **Shaq** (the hip Swiss watch's newest endorser) limited-edition Swatch, which comes in gold (mah' bro' **P. Diddy's** favorite color) and yellow and blue (sistah **J. Lo's** choice).

Inside the cinema, Swatch survival kits are being distributed. In it, some handcuffs, starry, starry shades, some Pellegrino, M&M's and other goodies that are "must munch" in Tita V's list. (I am hopelessly bingeing on the popcorn when the Terminator destroys the whole of LA with a single hand.)

Ma' sistah' **Tessa Prieto-Valdes** enters the cinema with what seemed like an avant-garde Swatch creation on her head. A "dialogue" with Ah-nold, presumably on a phone patch from Hollywood, ensues. Oh, the powers of Tita V!

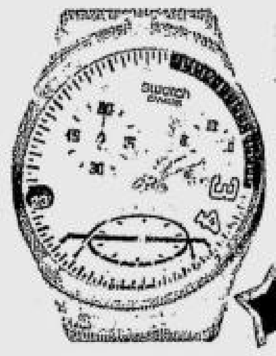
Swatch world

Earlier outside, aside from a spread of delights from Swiss Inn, the dirty ice cream stand and Skyy Vodka-tinis, what caught my attention was the TV set (since I don't have one). There, I got sucked into Planet Swatch.

Video looped images of classic Swatch ads that I grew up with, from "Who is she?" with **Mikee C**, to the metal revolution of **Rachel Alejandro** and **Inno Sotto**'s testimonial, even some of the ads that were banned here in Manila. I had a ball reliving those Swatch moments!

"It still feels so now!" I exclaimed to **Rowell Santiago** as I watched Mikee say, "I am... me!" How's that for classic and timeless? I could hear the "Swatch Irony" jingle in my mind: "Can stand the test of time..."

Post-screening, I proceed to my Greenbelt hop, where I bump into the BBC group of **Edge Pamute**, **Kara Tolentino** and **Mike Constantino**, who are out promoting next Saturday's biggest party, Hotel Costes. Soon enough, I look at my Swatch and realize it's time to go. In the meantime, talk to the hand.



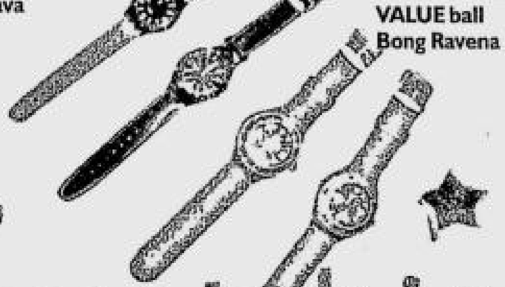
SWATCH'S latest Shaq watch

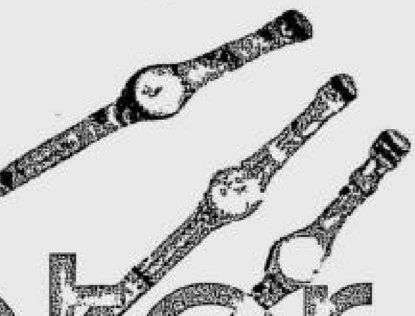
TALK to Joel Banal's hand

WRIST taker Asi Taulava

VALUE ball Bong Ravena

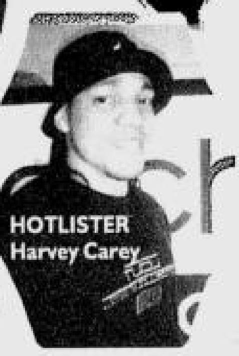
TITA Virgie Ramos' golden ball





JAMMIN with Jimmy Alapag

CLASSIC Rowell Santiago



HOTLISTER Harvey Carey

HIP DUO Robby Mananquil and Nicolette Bell

INNO Sotto's choice

DODOT with Mikee forever

COSMO'S Myrza Sison with Jake Ramirez

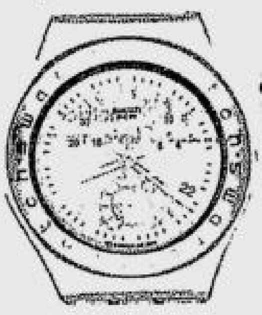
MY shining moment as Swatch endorser

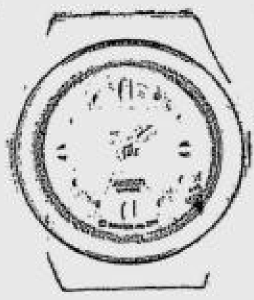
PATRICK Rosas without make up

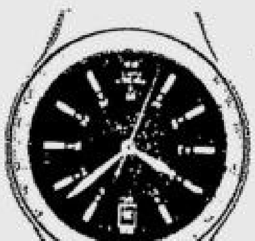
MODEL Christian Waaler

NEW it boy Luch Mendez

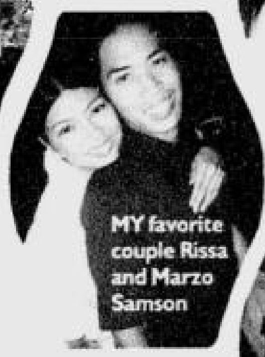
VENDY captured!







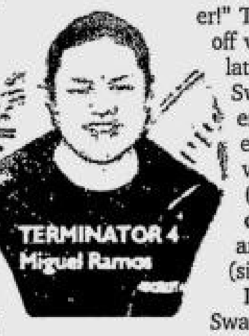
KISSY two Juan Miguel Ongsiako and Leica Carpo



MY favorite couple Rissa and Marzo Samson

S CLUB 7 Greg Turvey and Nancy Castiglione

SWATCH-O-PHILES Shey Bolaños and Liza Vengco



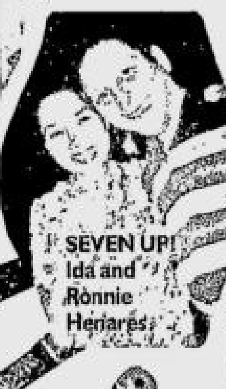
TERMINATOR 4 Miguel Ramos

AVANT GUARDIAN Tessa Prieto-Valdes

> 'It still feels so now,' I marveled as I watched Mikee C proclaim, 'I am ... me!' How's that for timeless?

YOGA style of Leah Puyat and Bela Lipat

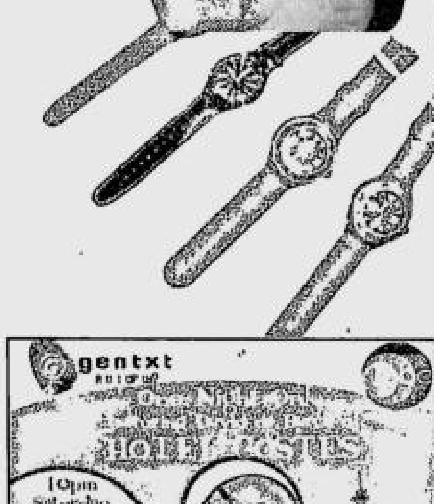
SHADY Randy Santiago

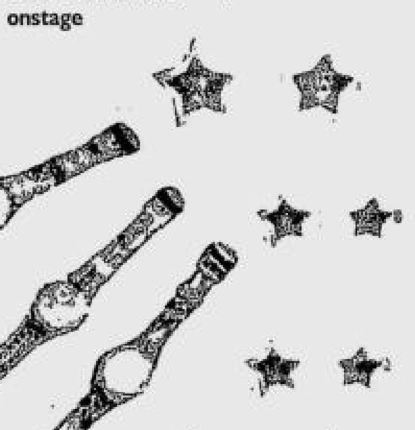


SEVEN UP! Ida and Ronnie Henares

GRO! Girlie Rodis onstage

STAR SEARCH. Cris Villonco





gentxt

10pm Saturday 26 July 2003 Forbes Town Center @ The Fort

Hotel Costes Paris' resident DJ David de Barce comes to Manila for a one night only engagement. Celebrate style and substance in one great night of true Novalounge music. Also featuring BBC's Scrambled Edge and Latin Canteen.

NEXT Saturday's Super Party! BBC's Hotel Costes at 10 p.m., Forbes Town Center, The Fort. See you there!

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A long road home

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

Highlights of a 10-day 'de-stressing' odyssey

A VERY recent glitch in my emotional circuitry caused me to set forth on a journey back to my epicenter. I just wanted to go home, sleep off my troubles and start out a day anew, like all warriors weary from the battles of human relationships. Alas, the winds did not favor me, especially not with the arrival of two vacationing friends, one from New York and the other from London, who like playing god with my hedonistic endeavors. What happened instead was a 10-day odyssey meant to "de-stress" me, filled with tales of new discoveries, bold (literally—they were semi-naked) civilizations, and unearthed treasures. Here are the highlights.

Long, long, long island

A slight nudge via e-mail prompted me to go to Boracay for a few days, during the wonderful off-season. I thought, what better way to forget than to heed the call of paradise? As I set foot on the magical island, I was greeted by exotic seafaring tribesmen from Nigi Nigi Nu Noos e Nu Nu Noos, the name of our resort (likewise an ancient African voodoo chant meant to appease the hard-headed coconut gods).

My friends and I were immediately festooned with sweet flowers and *puka* shells, and then offered a welcome drink, their very famous Long Island Iced Tea. A guest named Cassandra warned me about its delicious but deadly powers, being a mixture of vodka, rhum, tequila, triple sec, and several unpronounceable substances. I didn't listen.

"No worries, we're experts in this department," I said, and proceeded to sip two huge, round glasses of the celebrated potion. Next thing I knew, I was by the seashore, being rubbed all over by two island women armed with sweet coconut oil. I looked around in search of my mates, and saw one of them passed out on the bar, holding an unfinished cigarette. I knew he was a goner, at least for the whole night.

Remains of the Dead Sea

My journey "home" likewise took a half-day's alternate route towards the west, to Salon West in Quezon City in fact, to surrender to its famed Lava Rock Massage. I was asked to lie down on a special bathing bed, where first my whole body was scrubbed with authentic Dead Sea Salt, guaranteed to be the only bath salt that does not chafe the skin's surface no matter how hard it is rubbed on. I did not even need to get up to shower off all its exfoliating wonders, for the bed that I was lying on had been especially designed for such a service—with grooves all around its sides to collect the washed-off water.

It was an indulgence meant for Helen of Troy.

Happily clean and relaxed, I proceeded to the next room for the rock massage. Heated basalt stones were rested on various points on my back, hands and nape in order to soothe painful cold pockets. A gentle massage with one of the stones was so pleasurable, it was almost sacrilegious, with powers that I was sure could lull to sleep even the lone eye of a Cyclops.

theslavedrum
remembering nothing

Call of the Slave Drum

During yet another attempted journey back, a sudden rainfall besieged the city, turning its roads into waterways and my vehicle into a slow boat. I decided to ease my rising temper and drown out the sirens threatening to crack my car window, by playing the brand new album "Remembering Nothing," by independent local artists "The Slave Drum" (being sold, by the way, at Big Sky Mind, Sanctum, Rock Radio Café, and soon, at Music One and Tower Records).

I found it interesting that the band's name was a line taken from an obscure Dead Can Dance song, referring to the drumbeat danced to by African slaves aboard ships sailing to the New World. I was instantly beguiled by the haunting melody that seemed to annihilate physical reality.

Trust me, this Indie Opus is unlike any local act you've ever heard before. All the songs seem to emit an otherwordly glow with such seductive refrains as this one from the song "Datura": "I can't wait to be alone/ To sink myself ambiguous/ I can't leave this interzone/ To drink myself oblivious."

Other enchanting arias that take you to lands far, far away are "You Wear my Skin" and "She Rides." The last track on the CD, "Remembering Nothing," seems to achieve just that, with a merging of strings, drumbeats and the sound of rainwater. If I hadn't been held down by a seatbelt, I would have followed the melody out of my car, in search of the blissful nothingness permeating the wet city.

Inside the Walled City

A text message then diverted my attention and led me within the walls of the historical town of Intramuros, holding on to a promise of ethnic treasures exhibited as part of WOW Philippines! Navigating a labyrinth of streets, I whizzed by colorful *calesas* and finally found the open, cobblestone square where tables were being set for the night's feast, and dancers in kaleidoscopic suits were whiling away time. I learned that I had missed out on last month's Central Mindanao showcase, but came just in time for the new region to be featured, the National Capital Region.

Inside an adjacent pavilion were merchants selling assorted ethnic arts and crafts, with a few stalls still left over from the past *fiestas*. There I found exquisite rugs hand-woven by tribal folk in the Mountain Province, beautiful ethnic brass and beaded belts from Mindanao, authentic *malongs*, wooden tribal masks, carved drums and unique Muslim beaded necklaces. It was a veritable treasure trove I could get my hands on, in exchange for so little!

Face to face with the Demi-goddess

My last detour on the way home was the movie theater, to catch the last full show on a late Sunday night. Shamefully enough, it was "Charlie's Angels," which had been showing for weeks.

Frankly, I didn't care very much for the bubbly threesome of Lucy, Cameron and Drew, especially since the prospect of deconstructing such deep dialogue as, "I like to ride it when it's long and hard" did not really appeal to me. No, my reasons were far, far shallower than that—I wanted to be in awe by the vision of the bronzed Brazilian god, Rodrigo Santoro, a.k.a. "mute surfer boy" in the flick.

Surprisingly enough, I was captivated by someone else—the witchy-keen Demi Moore. Back from the grave in resplendent, long-haired and rock-bodied glory. No wonder everyone's talking about Demi these days; she seems to have found the fountain of youth, albeit in the wellsprings of lipo and botox, but we don't care, do we? All to proudly show the world how fabulous being 40 can be.

I felt the three Angels were reduced to awkward swine alongside this goddess in a black bikini. In real life, Demi is making headlines carousing around Hollywood with the new love of her life, Ashton Kutcher (the charming dumb stoner boy of "That '70s Show"), who is 15 years younger than she is. Ahhh...the ways of these goddesses, I can only hope to emulate!

End of the Odyssey

Finally reaching my destination, home, I realized that all the attempts to provide temporary amnesia to troublesome days all pale in comparison to the one ancient, centuries-old cure: a restful sleep in my own bed.

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